

## PLO urges Iran to opt for peace

KUWAIT (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Saturday urged Iran to agree to a peaceful settlement of its war with Iraq, warning that the hostilities could lead to an internationalisation of the war. Referring to increasing numbers of American and other warships in the Gulf waters as the hostilities escalated, Mr. Arafat told a conference that this indicated the Gulf war would eventually be resolved in the framework of "a global game." The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) attended the fifth pan-Islamic summit conference which ended Thursday with an appeal for an end to the war, now in its seventh year. Iran boycotted the conference and has rejected its recommendations. Mr. Arafat is member of the pan-Islamic goodwill panel, one of the various bodies that have attempted and failed to bring Baghdad and Tehran to the negotiating table.

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## Rifai briefs Cabinet on OIC summit

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet held a session on Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. During the meeting Mr. Rifai briefed the Cabinet on the results of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit held last week in Kuwait. The prime minister also briefed the Cabinet on the role which His Majesty King Hussein played during the conference and the efforts he made through the meetings and talks he held with Arab and Muslim leaders to serve and support Arab causes.

## Jordan and Egypt plan major microwave project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt open talks here on Tuesday on implementation of a major regional telecommunications project between the two countries using modern microwave systems through Aqaba and Sinai. During the meeting the two sides will discuss works achieved so far and the remaining stages of the project which is expected to be put into service before the end of this year. The project will provide advanced telephone services between the two countries.

## Prices of Arabic dailies go up

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's three Arabic dailies — Al Rai, Al Wasat and Sawt Al Shaab — will be sold for 75 fils as of today instead of the previous price of 50 fils. The decision was taken with approval by the Ministry of Information following a request by the publishers of the three papers to offset a continuing rise in the price of newspaper paper and a decline in advertising revenues. The publishers of three dailies had earlier furnished the Ministry of Information with invoices to support their case and these showed that over the past 12 months newspaper paper prices had increased three times, forcing newspapers in neighbouring countries, namely Kuwait and Egypt, to double prices.

## Arabs to counter Europe-Israel move

DAMASCUS (R) — The Arab Boycott of Israel Office adopted measures on Saturday to counter a joint European-Israeli chamber of commerce established in Paris. A statement issued by the office's Arab liaison officers after a six-day meeting gave no details of the measures but said they were aimed at "foiling the chamber's pro-Israeli objectives." Arab Boycott Commissioner-General Zuhair Aqel said earlier the new chamber was a prelude to complete economic cooperation between the European Community and Israel, similar to a U.S.-Israeli treaty signed two years ago to establish a free trade zone.

## 2 more killed in Karachi violence

KARACHI (AP) — At least two people were killed and 30 others injured Saturday when police opened fire on rioters, who fired back and hurled gasoline bottle bombs and rocks, witnesses and hospital officials said. In the second straight day of rioting in Karachi, some 200 people were arrested in the city's Orangi district when members of the Bihari ethnic community tried to march on the house of the provincial chief minister.

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# Iraq reports recapturing Fish Lake from Iranians

Iraqi warplanes keep up heavy air attacks

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Saturday its armed forces had recaptured some territory seized by Iranian troops in a cross-border offensive east of the city of Basra.

"After a series of battles, the Iraqis were able to wrest from the teeth of the imposters (Iranians) what they thought was a foothold and a safe base for new aggression against Basra," a high command communiqué said. Iraq's defence minister, General Adnan Khairallah, said the Iraqis had been driven from the shores of Fish Lake, a man-made stretch of water northeast of the city.

"The communiqué said the Iraqis had mobilised all their military strength in a small area of seven by five kilometres in preparation for an assault on Basra."

"Those troops have been changed into piles of rotten corpses to be eaten by scavengers," it said.

Both sides claim to have inflicted tens of thousands of casualties since Iran launched its offensive on Jan. 9.

Iraq's ruling Baath Party newspaper, Al Thawra, said last

## Kuwait holds 11 suspects in oil site arson cases

KUWAIT (AP) — Eleven suspects have been rounded up in connection with recent sabotage fires in southern Kuwaiti oil installations, the government announced Saturday.

The latest spate of fires was reported Jan. 19, shortly before Kuwait hosted the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) summit.

The same suspects were also blamed for three blasts which precipitated major fires in the same region last June.

A man-hunt for five other suspects was under way, the Interior Ministry said in a statement distributed by the Kuwait News Agency.

The Jan. 19 fires in the Magwa oil field and an oil loading terminal a few kilometres away broke out simultaneously six days before the summit was convened.

Initial summit sessions were overshadowed by threats from pro-Iranian terrorist groups against Kuwait.

No casualties were reported in the fires which lasted only two hours, according to official statements.

Three explosions in the Al Ahmadi oil complex 10 kilometres from Magwa ignited a major fire last June which were also blamed on pro-Iranian saboteurs.

Iran, a member of the OIC, boycotted the Islamic summit after accusing Kuwait of supporting Iraq in the 66-month-old Iran-Iraq war.

The Interior Ministry said Saturday the suspects had concealed quantities of arms and explosives, which were captured by police forces.

The suspects were referred to the prosecutor general who was to issue indictments, it said.

The ministry did not reveal the nationalities of the suspects but, judging by their names, they appeared to be of Iranian descent.

The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, presided on Saturday over an extraordinary session of the council of ministers to review the outcome of the OIC summit.

The Kuwaiti News Agency quoted an official as saying he told the Foreign Ministry to set up a special department to help to follow up resolutions of the summit.

## Missile lands in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iranian surface-to-air missile smashed into Baghdad on Saturday night, the seventh missile to hit the Iraqi capital this year. Residents said a loud explosion was heard over a radius of several kilometres when the missile struck at 2035 local time (1735 GMT) and a huge cloud of black smoke rose into the sky. Windows were shattered over a distance of about one kilometre, they said, as many people rushed out of doors in panic. There was no immediate news about casualties.

Thursday more than a quarter of a million Iraqis had been killed or injured since an earlier assault in late December.

Iran claimed its forces repulsed Saturday's attack, killing or wounding at least 3,300 Iraqis in heavy fighting overnight near Fish Lake.

In Baghdad, the war communiqué read over state television said Iraqi troops scored "a great victory."

"The battle was a great one," an excited television announcer said, reading from the communiqué.

As he read the announcement, the sound of automatic gunfire crackled through the Iraqi capital as people fired guns in the air in celebration.

Iraq's Islamic republic news agency, monitored by AP in Moscow, said Iran pushed back the counterattack, killing or wounding 3,300 Iraqis.

The agency said a number of Iraqi soldiers were also taken

prisoner after they tried to "infiltrate" Iranian positions on the western bank of the Fish Lake near Jasim River, 10 kilometres from Basra.

Earlier on Saturday Iraq sent fresh waves of warplanes to attack Iran, signalling no let-up in an intensive air war launched in response to the latest ground offensive by Iranian forces.

Officials said aircraft took off at sunrise and headed eastward to hit economic targets and cities in Iran.

Iran on Friday urged citizens to help build shelters against the Iraqi raids, saying attacks in the last three weeks had killed more than 2,000 people.

Al Thawra said the air raids would continue until Iran was forced to accept a just solution to the war, now in its seventh year.

War communiques from Baghdad said Iraqi planes on Friday attacked about a dozen Iranian cities and towns, plus a number of oil installations and other economic targets.

A military spokesman later said Iraqi jets attacked the northern Iranian towns of Rezaieh and Miandoub, both near the Turkish border.

He said the planes destroyed an electric power station and fuel stores at Rezaieh and "selected targets" at Miandoub before returning to base.

The spokesman said Iraqi jets also attacked on Saturday a "large naval target" — Baghdad's normal term for an oil tanker or a merchant vessel — near the Iranian coast in the northern Gulf.

The Iraqi News Agency said Iraqi warplanes attacked "a big naval target" Friday near the Iranian coast.

The Lloyds of London identified the target as the Cypriot

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## White House insists that Senate panel report backs Reagan statements

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House has said that Senate report on the Iran arms scandal supports President Reagan's version of events but also acknowledged many questions remain unanswered.

Mr. Reagan has denied knowledge of the transfer of profits from the arms sales to U.S.-backed contra rebels in Nicaragua and has said the covert programme was an effort to open dialogue with a strategically important country rather than a hostage swap.

"The facts as they are coming out are bearing out what the president said," White House spokesman Larry Speakes told reporters on Friday, responding to the release on Thursday of a Senate Intelligence Committee report on the scandal.

Speakes' contention that the intelligence committee report supported Mr. Reagan's position was challenged by Democratic Senator George Mitchell.

"The report provides substantial, strong evidence that this was essentially a swap for hostages," Mr. Mitchell told reporters. "It directly contradicts the president's claim that this was not a hostage swap."

Intelligence committee member Sen. Frank Murkowski, an Alaska Republican, said he believed Mr. Reagan's desire to free the hostages was the primary purpose of the sales from the start.

Two key figures in the arms sales, former National Security Adviser John Poindexter and his aide Oliver North, refused to testify to the Senate committee, citing their constitutional protection against self-incrimination.

Vice-Admiral Poindexter resigned and Lieutenant-Colonel North was dismissed when the diversion of arms profits to the contras was disclosed last November.

In its report the intelligence committee listed numerous questions to be followed up by the Senate Select Committee which

will take over the investigation. These included the roles of the White House staff, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and U.S. and foreign private citizens in the scandal.

The White House has long urged publication of the Senate report which it hoped would help defuse the scandal and enable Mr. Reagan to concentrate on his legislative programme.

In his state of the union address to Congress on Tuesday Mr. Reagan made only a brief reference to the affair, preferring to speak of his proposals to make the United States more competitive in international markets.

Speakes acknowledged that the 15-month Iran arms sale episode "could be interpreted as a trade of arms for hostages, but this was not the policy approved by the president."

The report said the arms sales to Iran stemmed from pressure from Israel and international

(Continued on page 2)

not to be named, told reporters Friday night. "My information is that Waite will not be returning, as he has been kidnapped. He has been added to the list of hostages."

He added: "He became one (a hostage) the day he left without his bodyguards. That was the trick they (kidnappers) played because they had planned for him not to return and did not want the bodyguards to know where they went."

Mr. Waite's cousin, John Waite, said he and other relatives in Britain believed the militia official's remarks had an "awful ring of truth."

Mr. Junblatt said there was "nothing precise" about reports that Mr. Waite was being held against his will, adding: "I hope to have more information by next week and then I will be frank about Mr. Waite's fate. Let's be patient."

He said the original assurances about Mr. Waite's safety had been given to the Druze by a west Beirut doctor in contact with the hostage-holders but not directly in touch with Mr. Waite.

"I hope he is giving us the right message," Mr. Junblatt said of the doctor, whom he did not identify.

(Continued on page 3)

A militia official, who asked

## Reinstated seat belt regulation goes into effect today

By Rana Sabbagh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The reinstated regulation calling for the mandatory use of seat belts goes into effect today and the Public Security Department (PSD) has warned that violators of the regulation will be liable for fines ranging between JD 5 and JD 15.

So watch out. It saves money to stick to the law! It also helps reduce a heavy casualty toll on the roads, which last year averaged 22 killed or injured everyday, according to PSD statistics.

The reintroduction of the seat belt law was preceded by a month-long heavy media campaign over the importance of harnessing oneself to the seat. Under the law all motorists and front-seat passengers cruising on inter-city roads and highways with speed limits in excess of 60 kilometres per hour (kph) have to wear seat belts. If not, offenders will be fined between JD 5 and JD 15 — depending on the speed limit.

Drivers who have not fitted their cars with seat belts will face a double fine, and in the future the licence of their vehicles will not be renewed. Each car has to be equipped with head rests on both front seats, in accordance with the law.

In June 1984, when the law on seat belts was first introduced, Jordan banned the import of cars without seat belts or head rests, but many of the 255,000 vehicles now on the road are between five to 10 years old.

The seat belt legislation was first introduced in June 1984, and then scrapped by former Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed a year later.

However, some of the local authorities and concerned road safety societies campaigned strongly for reimplementing the legislation.

Some people interviewed at random by the Jordan Times over the past month expressed surprise over the optional use of the seat belt on roads with speed limits less than 60 kph.

"Studies conducted abroad show that wearing seat belts at all times cuts the fatality rate by 25 per cent. In addition, the severity of injuries is reduced," according to a seasoned researcher on road accidents.

The researcher, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that PSD statistics for 1986 revealed that 75 per cent of the year's 13,701 road accidents occurred inside cities, where speed limits are usually low due to various factors including traffic congestion, narrow roads and heavy pedestrian movement.

"I do wonder over the PSD's enforcement of the seat belt law on roads with speed limits of more than 60 kph," especially if the main reason given by the department for rescinding the law is to cut heavy casualty toll," the researcher told the Jordan Times.

In a recent press conference, Brigadier Ahmad Abu Al Sa'ud, assistant PSD director for traffic affairs, said: "We do encourage the public to always use their seat belts regardless of the speed they are driving." However, he admitted that "it takes the public a long time to get accustomed to wearing the seat belts at all times while in motion."

Brig. Abu Al Sa'ud told reporters on Dec. 30, two days before the law was officially reinstated and a month before it was to be technically implemented, that his department's goal was to convince people that seat belts were necessary for their safety.

Last year's road statistics showed a welcome drop in crashes and casualties. The death toll fell by 31 per cent to 362, and the number of injured by 17 per cent to 7,539.

In a press conference two weeks ago, PSD Director General Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali stressed his department's hopes to reduce death from road accidents to at least 10 per cent for every 10,000 cars from the 1986 ratio of 16 to 10,000.

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## 'Lebanese Forces' warns MEA

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's main rightist militia warned Middle East Airlines (MEA), the national carrier, on Saturday to stop using Beirut airport from Sunday, airport sources said. The warning was apparently part of a drive by the mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces" to get government authorisation for operations at a new airport in a Christian-held area north of the capital. "Lebanese Forces" officials refused to confirm or deny that they had sent an ultimatum. The sources said the warning was received by MEA officials who had held an emergency meeting to discuss it. They did not reveal whether the militia had threatened to take specific action if it was ignored. Christian parts of Lebanon came to a standstill on Saturday in response to a strike call by the "Lebanese Forces" to back its demand for the opening of a makeshift airport at Halat, a strip of deserted highway 25 kilometres north of Beirut.

## U.S. carrier ordered to stay in Mediterranean

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy has been ordered to remain indefinitely in the Mediterranean because of rising tension in the Middle East, the Pentagon said Saturday.

The carrier, which left Malaga, Spain, Friday night, was due to leave the area and head home last week.

Spokeswoman Jan Bodanyi said the Kennedy will conduct manoeuvres in the Mediterranean amid rising Middle East tensions and that the ship's normal six-month deployment has been extended indefinitely.

Bodanyi said the United States had about 30 ships in the region, including the aircraft carrier Nimitz, and said: "That is not an unusual number for us."

"The Kennedy is scheduled to be in the Mediterranean operating area," Bodanyi said. She refused to pinpoint the exact location, saying "we never discuss details of ship movements."

She referred to statements by chief Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims who said earlier this week that the deployments are "precautionary moves to ensure that the president has all options available to him that he might choose given concerns in the region."

"We are, of course, concerned about rising tension in the (Arabian) Gulf, the Mediterranean area. We want to make sure that we are prepared if our strategic interests are threatened to show support for our friends in the region," Sims said.

The ship movements have coincided with intensified fighting between Iran and Iraq in their seven-year war and the kidnappings of more Americans in Lebanon by pro-Iranian extremists.

A Spanish naval spokesman told Reuters by telephone he had no information whether the carrier and its cruiser escorts had gone through the Straits of Gibraltar into the Atlantic or were heading east towards Lebanon.

In London, the U.S. Navy confirmed that the John F. Kennedy had left Malaga "as a result of an operational schedule change" but declined to disclose where the ship was heading.

The United States has about 23 warships and seven support vessels of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

What are U.S. options in Gulf, page 4

## Mubarak renews pledge to support Gulf Arabs

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak reiterated his support for Gulf Arab states on Saturday after paying the first visit by an Egyptian head of state to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after Cairo signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

"I affirm once more that Egypt stands with all its weight and capacities at the side of its brothers in the Gulf as they face critical dangers at this time in Arab history," President Mubarak said in a message to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan. The message was released by the Emirates News Agency (WAM) shortly after Mr. Mubarak left for Cairo.

He was apparently referring to the six-year-old war between Iran and Iraq.

Egypt backs Iraq politically and militarily and sent a message of support to the UAE last November when unidentified planes, believed by Western diplomats to have been Iranian, bombed an oilfield off Abu Dhabi.

WAM said Mr. Mubarak's talks on Saturday with Sheikh Zayed dealt with the war, the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Kuwait, Arab developments and bilateral cooperation.

Mr. Mubarak's message said the discussions were "an advanced step on the road to true Arab solidarity and feelings of common goal and destiny."

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not been softened and on some points the final communiqué used a slightly harsher tone.

"We had no great expectations from the meeting and are therefore not disappointed. Although the summit called on member states not to resume ties with us, it certainly did not produce resolutions creating new hurdles for the peace process," one official said.

The officials said efforts towards Arab-Israeli peace could see a revival now since Israel believed Arab states had been awaiting the summit before taking any action.

Arab newspapers published in East Jerusalem criticised the summit's failure to take new initiatives on the Palestinian issue.

Israeli officials said Israel was "not worried" by signs of a warming of relations between Egypt and Syria, demonstrated when Presidents Mubarak and Hafez Al Assad walk hand-in-hand into the conference hall on Tuesday.

"Israel has always said it had no objections to Egypt improving its relations with other Arab states as long as this did not jeopardise peace between Egypt and Israel. There is no reason to believe better ties between Damascus and Cairo should lead to this," an official said.



# U.S. denies knowledge of any ransom for hostages

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. State Department officials have denied any knowledge of alleged ransom payments for the release of American hostages held in Lebanon.

"Our policy on this is well known — we do not pay ransom for hostages and we don't encourage anyone else to pay ransoms," one official said.

A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official alleged Friday that \$2 million was paid to secure the release of American hostage David Jacobson, who was freed last November.

"We know nothing at all about that," said a State Department official who declined to be identified.

Salah Khalaf, a close aide of PLO leader Yasser Arafat, told reporters in Tunis the money was paid in cash by British church envoy Terry Waite for the release of Jacobson, who had been held by the pro-Israeli Islamic Jihad (Holy War) group for 17 months.

"The money was paid through

Waite in cash. Two million dollars was paid for Jacobson," said Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad. He said the cash did not come directly from the U.S. government but that American firms contributed to a fund intended to be used as ransom money.

Mr. Khalaf said the payment was intended to be part of a wider deal including other U.S. hostages held in Lebanon, but this fell through.

Jacobson, director of the American University Hospital in Beirut, was freed on Nov. 2 as a result of Mr. Waite's mediation. Islamic Jihad said at the time it was holding two other Americans, journalist Terry Anderson and university Dean Thomas Sutherland.

Mr. Khalaf's statement came amid reports from Lebanon that Mr. Waite, who is on another

mission to try to free hostages, was under house arrest there or had been kidnapped.

A total of 26 foreigners are missing in Lebanon, including three Americans and an Indian abducted last Saturday.

Last December, Texas multi-millionaire H. Ross Perot said on U.S. television he had raised \$2 million in hostage ransom cash in May last year at the request of then National Security Council aide Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North.

Perot indicated then that the money was not used, but his eventual disposition was not made clear.

On Friday, in Dallas, following a question about his possible involvement in the ransom payment, Perot said through a spokesman, "I am not involved and I have no knowledge of it."

Col. North was fired last November by President Reagan following the disclosure that profits from U.S. arms sales to Iran were turned over to Nicaraguan rebels forces.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel denies arms supplies to contras

TEL AVIV (R) — Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has denied reports that Israel had provided arms to Nicaraguan rebels. A spokesman issued a statement by the minister as saying: "There is no truth in these reports claiming that Israel had suggested to the U.S. the supply of arms to the contras." The denial followed reports by Israel radio and television quoting excerpts from a U.S. Senate report on American arms supplies to Iran and diversion of profits from sales to the contras.

### Castro receives Iranian message

HAVANA (R) — An Iranian delegation met Cuban President Fidel Castro and gave him a letter from Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi, the newspaper Granma has reported. It said Mr. Castro and the Iranian delegation, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Alireza Mousavi, analysed the international situation, especially that of Central America and the Middle East. They also discussed bilateral relations and the activities of the Non-Aligned Movement, of which both Iran and Cuba are members.

### Iranian aide to visit Japan

TOKYO (AP) Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larjani will visit Japan on Feb. 2 for talks on bilateral issues with his Japanese counterpart, a Foreign Ministry official has said. During his four-day official visit, Larjani will discuss bilateral and global issues with Deputy Foreign Minister Shinichi Yanai, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

### Iran appoints new air force chief

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has named Colonel Mansour Sattari as its new air force commander, Islamic Republic newspaper said Saturday. It said the appointment was endorsed by revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who is charged with appointing senior military commanders under Iran's 1979 constitution. Col. Sattari, 39, replaces Col. Houshang Sediq who was reported in hospital last week.

## 'Iran may have used U.S. intelligence in Fao attack'

By Stephens Broening

WASHINGTON — Iran may have used intelligence provided by the United States last year to win its first advance over Iraq in their Gulf war, threatening to tip the military balance toward Iran in direct contradiction of U.S. policy, senior officials have said.

According to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's report on the Iran-contra affair, the intelligence was given to the Iranians — over CIA objections — at the insistence of the National Security Council staff.

NSC officials had organised secret arms sales to Iran as part of a controversial plan to restore relations with Tehran and gain Iran's help in liberating American hostages held in Lebanon. The furnished intelligence was an added element. They also planned to divert some of the proceeds from the sales to aid the Nicaraguan contras.

The Senate report said the intelligence on Iraq was given to the Iranians just as they were preparing for their attack on Fao, Iraq's major oil-refining centre and the key to present Iranian offensive against Basra, Iraq's second-largest city.

Senior officials said the U.S. intelligence on the strength and disposition of Iraqi defences would have been helpful — if not

critical — in the Iranians' unexpected seizure of Fao last February.

U.S. policy in the Gulf has been founded on the premise that an Iranian victory with the present fundamentalist regime would destabilise the whole region, and would present a special menace to America's closest Arab friends.

Governments of Arab countries friendly to the United States have bitterly criticised the NSC's Iran initiative, and State Department officials say diplomatic instructions intended to placate the Arabs have done little to calm their fears. Revelation of the intelligence-sharing would be likely to increase Arab apprehension, officials said.

According to the report, the Iranian initiative was undertaken despite the objections of Secretary of State George Shultz, who was deprived of essential information, and Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger, who appears to have been somewhat better informed. The Joint Chiefs of Staff were excluded from the process, the report said, as were the leading experts in the State and Defence Departments.

The Senate panel account supports Mr. Shultz's contention that he was only sporadically informed of the secret arms sales to Iran, possibly because of his position to them — The Baltimore Sun.

## Mahdi: Laws to replace Sharia ready

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese cabinet is studying draft laws to replace a harsh version of Sharia (Islamic Law) introduced in 1983, Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said.

"I am happy to say that all studies of the new laws are finished and are being studied by the cabinet before they go to the constituent assembly (parliament)," he said Friday night.

Mr. Mahdi, addressing a meeting of the non-government Arab Organisation for Human Rights, did not disclose the nature of the new laws and did not say when they would go to parliament.

Former President Jaafar Numeiri, ousted in a military coup in April 1985, imposed

Sharia on Sudan's ethnically-diverse 23 million people in September 1983.

Implementation of its tenets such as limb amputations and floggings angered some Sudanese and swelled ranks of anti-government rebels fighting troops in the mainly Christian and pagan south since May 1983.

Western diplomats said the new laws would safeguard rights of Sudan's non-Muslims but were expected to face tough opposition from Muslim militants in parliament.

Mr. Mahdi's remarks Friday night followed a call for immediate abrogation of Sharia made earlier in the meeting by Moham-

mad Omar Bashir, head of Sudan's Human Rights Organisation and a history professor at Khartoum University.

Mr. Bashir also urged Mr. Mahdi to lift emergency laws in force since the 1965 coup and to press ahead with plans to convene a delayed constitutional conference envisaged to work out a formula for power-sharing among Sudan's ethnic factions.

Proposals to convene such a conference first surfaced after Numeiri's overthrow. But the refusal of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the main rebel group in the south, is believed to have prevented it from taking place.

## Seoul still puzzled over fate of kidnapped envoy

SEOUL (R) — The fate of a South Korean diplomat, kidnapped in Lebanon a year ago Saturday and unheard from since, is still baffling the government here, officials said.

"What is annoying is that he has still not surfaced anywhere, no one knows if he is dead or alive and there has so far been no offer of negotiations," one official said. "We are helplessly groping in the dark."

Second Secretary Do Chae-sung, 44, was driving to work in mainly Muslim west Beirut when four gunmen seized him in broad daylight on a seafarers' boulevard. He had been stationed in the Lebanese capital for three months.

The kidnappers, waiting in a green Mercedes, got out to stop Do's official car 25 metres from the South Korean embassy, dragged him out and pumped machine-gun bullets into one of the front tyres, according to a colleague riding with Do whom the gunmen did not seize.

Do was the first South Korean diplomat abducted overseas and the first East Asian official taken hostage in Lebanon.

Several previously unknown groups claimed responsibility for his abduction, but none has made contact again, Foreign Ministry officials here said.

Two days after the kidnapping the Sunni Muslim Voice of the Homeland radio said an anonymous caller, claiming to be acting on behalf of the "Green Brigades" group, threatened to resort to violence unless a \$10 million ransom was paid by Feb. 10, 1986. The demand was not followed up and no ransom was paid, the officials said.

A day later the Fighting Revolutionary Cells group said in a

statement delivered to an international news agency in Beirut: "We call on the South Korean government to meet all the demands that we will put forward, otherwise he will be liquidated."

The statement was accompanied by a colour photograph of Do in captivity, looking haggard and unshaven and holding the latest issue of Time magazine. The South Korean government, believing the picture genuine, hoped the group would make specific demands but none was made.

South Korea has sought help from the United States, the Beirut government and major religious factions in Lebanon, International Red Cross societies and friendly Arab countries.

"But there is no sign of anybody positively helping secure Do's release, and are at a loss except to try to appeal to the Lebanese and international media," a Foreign Ministry official here said.

On Friday night Do's wife, daughter and father were shown on Lebanese television in tears, pleading for his release.

His 68-year-old father said in the video-taped appeal: "I beg that you return him soon to the family. I wish to see him before I die."

Twenty five other foreigners are listed missing, believed to be held by militants in Lebanon.

On Friday a senior militia official said in Beirut that British church envoy Terry Waite, who disappeared from public view on Jan. 20, had been kidnapped.

On Jan. 15 Mr. Waite said his secret talks to free foreign hostages in Lebanon were making good progress, but gave no details of his talks or the people he had met.

## White House: Report backs Reagan

(Continued from page 1)

arms dealers plus Mr. Reagan's deep desire to free American hostages being held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Speculation continued that Mr. Reagan's Chief of Staff Donald Regan would leave the White House soon as a result of the scandal, the president's worst political crisis in his six years at the White House.

Press commentators have blamed Mr. Regan for not properly advising the president and allowing the arms deal to develop without the knowledge of members of the cabinet, including Secretary of State George Shultz.

But Speakers described as "wrong" a report that three cabinet members had threatened to quit if Mr. Regan did not go.

## Gemayel to visit Jordan

BEIRUT (R) — President Amin Gemayel will visit Jordan, France and Belgium next month for talks on Lebanese and international developments, official sources said Saturday.

They said Mr. Gemayel would go to Jordan on Feb. 4 for a three-day visit at the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein.

On Feb. 17, the Lebanese leader will visit Paris at the invitation of President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and will later go to Belgium to discuss Lebanese and regional developments.

Mr. Gemayel returned to Beirut from Kuwait on Friday where he attended the Organisation of Islamic Conference Summit and met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad for the first time in more than a year.

After a year-long estrangement, the two leaders pledged to work together in renewed efforts to end the 11-year civil war.

## Ethiopians to vote for new constitution

ADDIS ABABA (R) — About 20 million Ethiopians vote Sunday on a new constitution which will make Ethiopia a People's Democratic Republic led by a vanguard Worker's Party on the classical Marxist model.

The electorate have from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. to vote "Yes" or "No" at 25,000 polling stations, some of them three days' walk from the nearest administrative centre.

In remote rural areas election officers will carry the ballot papers to the counting station in canvas saddlebags by horse or donkey, officials said.

The provisional military government, in power since the overthrow of the monarchy in 1974, is billing the referendum as a turning-point in the transformation of Ethiopia from pre-revolutionary feudalism to "democratic centralism" and popular participation in government.

## U.S. reportedly relied on questionable middleman in secret Iran arms deal

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House relied heavily on a possibly untrustworthy middleman in its secret arms sales to Iran, Senate investigators said in the first official report on the affair.

The report said Manucher Ghorbanifar, an Iranian arms dealer who conducted negotiations between Washington and Tehran, failed a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) lie-detector test in January 1986.

It said that although his credentials were questioned at one point by President Reagan, National Security Council (NSC) officials

Robert McFarlane and Oliver North continued to use him to make contacts with Iran.

This was at least partly on the strength of assurances by Israeli officials, the report said.

McFarlane was quoted by the New York Times as saying he would not have initiated the contacts through Ghorbanifar had he known of the questions over his background.

McFarlane said in an interview with the newspaper he thought Ghorbanifar was an adviser to the Iranian prime minister and other senior officials.

A 1985 State Department in-

telligence report branded Ghorbanifar a "talented fabricator" and other testimony showed the CIA ordered its agents in 1984 not to deal with him, the investigators found.

They also said the CIA "was aware of one instance in which Ghorbanifar had reportedly offered to provide intelligence on Iran to a third country in return for permission from the third country to continue the drug smuggling activities of Ghorbanifar's associates with the country concerned."

The committee did not elaborate.

## Reagan informed of Israeli weapons shipment to Iran during Geneva summit

By Walter Pincus and Dan Morgan

WASHINGTON — The Iranian arms initiative resulted from President Reagan's "deep concern" over American hostages in Lebanon, Israel's desire to step up contacts with Iran and pressure from foreign middlemen and arms dealers, as much as any effort by the administration to court moderate elements in Iran, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence said in a report.

The 65-page document, cleared for release on a 14-to-1 vote, provided fresh details about not only the Iranian arms transactions but also the still-murky links between those sales and the diversion of the proceeds to aid the Nicaraguan rebels.

Among the new details contained in the report are that: — Mr. Reagan and his top

advisers were told by former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane at the Geneva summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in November 1985 that the Israelis were considering an arms shipment to Iran and "if the operation was successful, hostages might be freed."

— U.S. intelligence material on Iraq was delivered on several occasions as part of the Iranian demands, over the objections of CIA.

— In an attempt to show that the United States was bargaining seriously, U.S. negotiators last September told Tehran that the Voice of America broadcasting service would mention Iran as one of the countries that refused landing rights to the hijackers of a TWA airliner in June 1985.

A few days later, CIA and NSC officials met to discuss a draft of the editorial thank-you. Working

through State Department officials, the NSC staff convinced the United States Information Agency — the VOA's parent organisation — that the unusual request came from "the highest levels."

The editorial was broadcast over a three-day period.

Intelligence committee chairman David L. Boren (D-Okla.) noted that while the report drew no conclusions and was only a summary of the testimony and documentation obtained by the group during a two-month investigation, the facts as presented led to the conclusion that "foreign policy was made by amateurs" during the period covered by the U.S.-backed arms selling programme.

"At this point in time, there is still no direct evidence that (Reagan) knew of or directed the diversion of (Iranian) funds (to the contras)," Boren said.

## TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	22:00	Evening Show Contd.
19:00	23:00	News Summary
19:30	23:30	News Headline
20:00	24:00	Close down
PROGRAMME ONE	BBC WORLD SERVICE	
15:30	03:00	News
16:00	03:30	News
16:30	04:00	News
17:00	04:30	News
17:30	05:00	News
18:00	05:30	News
18:30	06:00	News
19:00	06:30	News
19:30	07:00	News
20:00	07:30	News
20:30	08:00	News
21:00	08:30	News
21:30	09:00	News
22:00	09:30	News
22:30	10:00	News
23:00	10:30	News
23:30	11:00	News
PROGRAMME TWO	VOICE OF AMERICA	
17:30	05:00	News
18:00	05:30	News
18:30	06:00	News
19:00	06:30	News
19:30	07:00	News
20:00	07:30	News
20:30	08:00	News
21:00	08:30	News
21:30	09:00	News
22:00	09:30	News
22:30	10:00	News
23:00	10:30	News
23:30	11:00	News
RADIO JORDAN		
07:00	07:00	Light Music
07:30	07:30	News
08:00	08:00	News
08:30	08:30	News
09:00	09:00	News
09:30	09:30	News
10:00	10:00	News
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23:00	23:00	News
23:30	23:30	News

## WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS	STARS BY SATELLITE	WESTERN FOLK AND FILM WEEK	CULTURAL CENTRES	MUSEUMS
09:00	09:00	09:00	09:00	09:00	09:00
10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00
11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00
12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
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20:00	20:00	20:00	20:00	20:00	20:00
21:00	21:00	21:00	21:00	21:00	21:00
22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00
23:00	23:00	23:00	23:00	23:00	23:00

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	ARRIVALS: ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	DEPARTURES: ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)
09:00	09:00	09:00	09:00	09:00
10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00
11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00
12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
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23:00	23:00	23:00	23:00	23:00

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## King sends sympathy to Khalaf family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday delegated Dr. Bassam Al Saket, the secretary general of the Royal Court, to convey his condolences to the Khalaf family on the death of Mohammad Khalaf, a former minister who passed away in Amman on Thursday. The late Mr. Khalaf had held several government posts.

## Crown Prince condole Atallah family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has delegated Dr. Bassam Al Saket, the Royal Court's secretary general, to convey the Crown Prince's condolences to the family of Mr. Anton Atallah who died in Amman on Tuesday. Mr. Atallah, who was 90 years old, had served in a number of ministerial and other important posts.

## Students return to school, college

AMMAN (J.T.) — Schools, community colleges and universities re-opened on Saturday for the second term of the current 1986/87 scholastic year. The second term, which ends towards the end of May, will be followed by a 20-day holiday for all educational institutions in the Kingdom.

## Ramtha graduates People's Army cadets

RAMTHA (Petra) — A new batch of People's Army recruits graduated in Ramtha on Saturday after completing a training course in the use of light arms and rescue and first-aid operations. The trainees also received practical training in the field and were lectured on warfare and the use of various types of arms. The graduation ceremony was attended by a number of army officers.

## JCFC to run centre in S. Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) Director General Khalid Al Thaher returned from Saudi Arabia on Saturday after attending the opening of a cement training centre in Saudi Arabia. The centre was set up under an agreement signed recently between the JCFC and the Saudi company for services, maintenance and commissioning. Under the agreement, JCFC will run the centre and provide it with specialised technicians to train Saudi cadres.

## AMPCO board reviews operations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) board of directors on Saturday discussed a number of measures and plans to develop marketing and processing operations. The board also discussed future agreements to supply Arab and European markets in the light of past experiences. The company's achievements and the opening of new markets were also reviewed during Saturday's meeting.

## Delegation returns from talks on Arab food production

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-member Jordanian delegation returned to Amman on Saturday after taking part in a seminar on Arab food security held recently in the United Arab Emirates. Mr. Samir Hattab from the Ministry of Supply and Mr. Suleiman Roussan from Amman Municipality said that the seven-day seminar discussed a number of working papers presented by several Arab representatives on problems in the Arab food processing industry and in agricultural production. The seminar recommended that more attention be given to

agriculture, especially to the production of cereals and it requested help from specialised Arab organisations to help implement agricultural projects and market products. The seminar also called on Arab states to help achieve integration among Arab countries in food production, they said.

According to the delegation, the seminar approved Jordan's proposals calling for measures to protect Arab food industries through raising customs duty on foreign-made products and encouraging locally produced food commodities.

## Iraq reports retaking territory

(Continued from page 1)

steam tanker La Dya which was hit near the Iranian oil terminal of Kharg Island.

In another development, Iran has again rejected U.N. offers to mediate an end to the war.

At a U.N. press conference last week, Iranian Ambassador Said Rajaei, Khorassani said international diplomacy must wait until the fall of the Iraqi government.

"These good ideas of the secretary general have nothing to do with the fall of Saddam Hussein," Khorassani said. "We will consider these ideas in a very friendly and constructive manner. But any negotiation, or any ceasefire or any settlement will follow the fall of President Hussein's regime. That is our position."

In a speech at the Jan. 26 Islamic summit in Kuwait, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar suggested both countries "cut the knot" and submit to the findings of an ad hoc impartial body that would examine the questions of the initiation of the war.

In Paris, the French Foreign Ministry said French Premier Jacques Chirac would meet next Wednesday with Mr. Perez de Cuellar to discuss the secretary-general's new peace initiative.

In a communique, it said France welcomed the initiative "and intends to contribute actively to the discussions on the subject."

Saying that events in recent weeks in the war "highlighted its tragic and devastating character," the ministry said the French government "has not ceased and will not cease to encourage all the initiatives aimed at ending this absurd war."

General Khairallah said Saturday: "Iraqi forces fought unique battles in the history of wars which continued day and night, from one position to another, until the enemy collapsed."

He said units of the elite Presidential Guards had joined other troops in the fighting, with support from warplanes, helicopter gunships and concentrated artillery fire.

Baghdad Television and radio stations played martial music and patriotic songs for about three hours before the announcement.

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## Sharif Zaid opens course for officers

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker on Saturday opened a new training course for army officers at the Royal Command and Staff Academy.

In an address at the opening Gen. Sharif Zaid said that the Jordanian Armed Forces are continually being equipped with the most up to date weapons and military hardware to enable them to handle external dangers and to enhance the country's stability and security.

The Armed Forces of Arab states cannot be strengthened and will not be developed unless they are provided with efficient and highly qualified officers, Gen. Sharif Zaid continued. He also welcomed the presence of a number of army officers from other Arab countries who will be participating in the course.

Among those attending the opening ceremony were Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb and senior army officers.



Commander in Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Saturday addresses a group of Jordanian and Arab officers starting a training course at the staff and command centre.

## AOAD re-appoints Jum'a as director

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) has re-appointed Dr. Hassan Fahmi Jum'a as AOAD's director general for another four-year term. A statement issued by the Baghdad-based AOAD said that the re-appointment was in recognition of Dr. Jum'a's efforts and services and his endeavours to bolster inter-Arab cooperation and integration in agriculture.

The statement said that the decision to re-appoint Dr. Jum'a to the post was taken by the organisation's 16th session which ended in Baghdad on Jan. 28. Dr. Jum'a has been serving as AOAD's director general since 1980.

The AOAD's meeting which started on Jan. 28, endorsed a proposal for establishing green belts to counter desertification and entrusted the organisation's general secretariat to approach Arab and international organisations to finance the project and to specify their financial commitments towards executing the scheme, according to Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud who attended the meeting.

Mr. Hmoud added that the board also approved executive steps taken by the organisation to implement a number of projects in cooperation with other organisations, bodies and funds. The board called on all member states and Arab funds and organisations to rely on the organisation in carrying out studies in the agricultural field, he added. The board also recommended that the organisation's general secretariat follow up on recommendations issued by the Arab Economic and Social Council on a draft project for Arab agricultural coordination.

## VOA journalist explains brief detention in Syria

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A local journalist, who was briefly detained in Damascus on Jan. 11, on Saturday attributed his detention by the Syrian authorities "to an apparent misunderstanding."

Mr. Mohammad Ghuneim, director of the Voice of America (VOA) regional office in Amman, did not believe that his ten-hour detention in Damascus had any other implications. The VOA correspondent was seeking to hold contacts and arrange meetings with Syrian officials when he was arrested at the airport upon arrival. The Syrian authorities interrogated Mr. Ghuneim and kept him incommunicado before he was set free.

Mr. Ghuneim told the Jordan Times that he conducted a series of meetings with Syrian officials after he was released. "During my five-day stay in Damascus, I

was also looking for a stringer to freelance for the VOA," Mr. Ghuneim said in a telephone interview.

Last time Mr. Ghuneim visited Damascus was in 1982. Before then Mr. Ghuneim's assignment for VOA also covered Lebanon and he was a frequent visitor to the Syrian capital.

Reports reaching here from Washington said the State Department issued a brief statement following Mr. Ghuneim's detention, saying that the U.S. calling the incident "unacceptable," had protested to the Syrian government.

"Our position on freedom of the press is well known, and we consider the detention of Mr. Ghuneim unacceptable," the statement said. The reports quoted U.S. officials as saying that the U.S. had received an apology from the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## JEA completes first stage of electricity training centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has completed the first stage for the establishment of a regional training centre specialised in power systems. The centre is being set up in Jordan in cooperation with a Japanese firm, according to Mr. Adel Mar'i, director of the JEA's engineering department.

He said that the centre, to be formally opened towards the end of this year, will provide the country with skilled manpower who will be employed in JEA's projects, mainly in Irbit and Amman. The trained staff, he said, will be in charge of power generating and power distribution operations. The trained staff and technicians will also be qualified

to help take jobs up in the electricity sector in Jordan's other concerns and in business abroad, Mr. Mar'i added.

He said that the new centre, which will have a capacity of 200 trainees annually, will offer training courses to technicians from local electricity companies to improve their skills and efficiency.

The Japanese company, he added, will provide help to JEA's centre from now until 1991 by supplying technical assistance and equipment for training and maintenance and also by supervising training work. He said that a number of JEA staff and technicians will be dispatched to Japan to receive training as instructors.

## Exciting, accessible fashion from Iraq

By Meg Abu Hamdan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Iraqi dress designer Suha Al Bakri and Iraqi ceramicist Nuha Al Radi have teamed up together to produce a collection of clothes to be shown in Amman this week that are excitingly different and totally enticing. Although only in operation for a year, the Baghdad-based couple, with this their fifth collection, have been quickly successful. The reason for their appeal? A range of witty, accessible clothes that are a clever mixture of current Western fashion with traditional Iraqi designs made totally out of Iraqi fabrics.

"Tasmeen," the name given to the couple's arty shop and workshop, has been invited to display its creations in a fashion show at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel on Feb. 4 by the Thathmon charity organisation. The Amman audience will then be able to see and buy models already featured in such magazines as "Marie Claire," as well as their latest designs.

Perhaps the most spectacular of these pieces will be the pure goat hair: "Abayat." The fabric—known as "Shan'w Shabak" with its fabulous weight and short silky sheen is made only in the northern Iraqi towns of Dohok, Arbil, and Mosul. Decorated with lines of stitching in rainbow hues these abayat will enhance any costume worn beneath them.

Another very ethnic piece is the Kurdish jacket the design of which stems from the town of Hilla. Made in a patchwork of bright silks and satins, Mrs. Bakri has slightly altered the original design to make it more comfortable and easier to wear without



Goat hair abayat with lines of stitching in rainbow hues — designed by Suha Al Bakri and Nuha Al Radi.

losing any of its lush exoticness. The "Tasmeen" adaptation of the traditional dish-dash is also unusual. Made in a lovely wool/cotton mix check, the garments are decorated with contrasting squares of silk and satin which gives them a touch of joie de vivre and fun.

The wonderful heavy cotton couple have used in their sport and beach wear is made in the town of Kut. Normally the fabric is used for the manufacture of more traditional garments such as vests but in the hands of Mrs. Bakri it has been transformed. Dyed in a range of bright, bold colours, the baggy T-shirts and shorts are then individually printed with silk screen designs.

Also from Kut come the knitted fabrics the couple have made into exceptionally attractive suits. The baggy sweaters and straight skirts come in an exciting range of colours that run through yellow, emerald, burgundy, black and petrol.

Colour is in fact one of the most important aspects of the Tasmeen collection for as Mrs. Radi told the Jordan Times, one of their aims was to introduce more colour into Iraqi fashion. Asked whether they had considered expanding and exporting their clothes, Mrs. Radi summed up: "At the moment, we are just a small arty concern, not doing much of any one line. That way we always keep our look fresh and original."

## New entry and registration procedures for foreigners go into effect today

AMMAN (Petra) — A new set of regulations issued by the Public Security Department (PSD) governing the entry and registration of Arabs and foreigners in the Kingdom go into effect Sunday according to a PSD announcement on Saturday.

The announcement said that the new regulations are designed to organise the entry, registration and departure of Arabs and foreigners from and to Jordan and to provide accurate data about them and are also being introduced to save time and effort for all non-Jordanian residents in the Kingdom.

According to the new regulations, the following procedures will be followed from now on: First — All border posts will assume the responsibility of issuing a two-week residence permit to non-Jordanians arriving in

the country. However, visitors wishing to prolong their stay must report to security centres in the Kingdom to obtain a three-month permit. Visitors from countries whose nationals do not require prior approval from the Ministry of Interior are also subject to these new regulations.

Second — Visitors to Jordan from countries whose nationals are required to have prior Ministry of Interior approval should report to police stations in two weeks time to have their names and addresses registered if they wish to stay in Jordan for more than two weeks.

to follow these procedures but to facilitate organisational matters they will be issued special cards which they have to produce at the nearest police station regularly throughout their stay in the Kingdom. These cards will have to be returned to border posts upon their departure from the Kingdom. Those who violate the regulations will be prosecuted. Fourth — Visitors in the country before these regulations were issued should take steps to rectify their situation within two months. Fifth — Nationals who are exempted from visas or those whose entry does not require prior Ministry of Interior approval should report to police stations in two weeks time to have their names and addresses registered if they wish to stay in Jordan for more than two weeks.

## Participants discuss wide-ranging aspects of educational systems

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian educationalists, parliamentarians and intellectuals on Saturday questioned whether it was possible to democratise the education system in Third World countries and stressed that an answer to this query could be possible if institutionalised democracy starts at schools and eventually spreads to the home and society.

This query surfaced during a two-day seminar entitled "The School We Want," which opened here to discuss wide-ranging issues including educational goals, democracy in education, secondary education and the roles of teachers in the educational process.

The Arab Women Graduates Club (AWGC) organised the event which was opened by Minister of Education Thoukan Al Hindawi who described the seminar's theme as "a national cause" which should be determined and discussed by all people at all levels.

Mr. Hindawi said that defining the school we want was a "need" to confront the challenges imposed on the region from the threats of separatism, backwardness, colonialism, Zionism and "the new emerging enemy approaching from the eastern gate," referring to Iran and its aggression against Iraq.

The discussions of Saturday's day-long session were based on two working papers submitted to the meeting and tackling "Educational goals: a disparity in theory and practice" and "Democracy and the educational process."

The first paper was prepared by Dr. Munther Al Masri, the director general of the Vocational Training Centre (VTC), and the second research was jointly prepared by Dr. Fawzi Shaker Al Touameh, Member of the Lower House of Parliament, and Dr. Ali Mahafza, the president of Mu'ta University.

The gathering actively responded to ideas in these two working papers and the majority of remarks focused on how to

provide an educational infrastructure capable of meeting future challenges, the moulding process of the individual and the group, the relationship between schools, the family and society and the role of socio-economic and political policies and situations vis-à-vis education.

However, the issue of institutionalised democracy and education and ways to democratise the education system were two issues to get the bulk of attention during Saturday's morning and evening sessions.

The majority of participants as well as lecturers questioned the possibility of democratising the educational system and policies in the absence of general institutionalised democracy in the country.

Mrs. Laila Sharaf, a former information minister and a strong supporter of democracy said: "There are no democratic institutions to protect the democratic individual. Therefore, I am one of those who insist that democracy should be tackled at school, from where it can spread to the family and the society, eventually enlarging the base of institutionalised democracy."

Allowing future Arab generations to practise their basic rights as guaranteed by the constitution was the only mean to assure that the region's future generations will be responsible, aware and patriotic, said a participant at the gathering.

"There are various indicators of countries which suffered from backwardness due to an absence of both democracy and scientific research which should be given attention in the early years of school," said a school teacher attending the seminar.

The issue of giving priority to educational goals should be based on the socio-economic situation of the country was another point raised during the discussions. "Any clear educational goals should be directly linked to defining the man we need and the society we want," said Mr. Omar Al Sheikh from the University of Jordan.

Dr. Sheikh questioned the

sources to which the concerned authorities should refer in a bid to achieve educational goals and said: "Should the definition of these goals be held hostage to the socio-political authorities?"

Dr. Mahafza in his paper defined three types of social orders: the authoritarian, democratic and the undecisive and said that the educational system in any country is directly linked to the pattern of its social order. "Any attempt to democratise education in a totalitarian country will create schizotypic confusion among the teachers and the educated due to the wide gap between what they learn in theory and what they can implement in practice," said Dr. Mahafza.

He stressed that the nature of the educational system is a means to maintain stability and continuity as well as it being a tool for social, political and economic developments. "On numerous occasions, the socio-economic and political developments were preceded by refurbishments in the educational system and created wide gaps between development needs and the capability of the educational system to cope with these changes," asserted Dr. Mahafza.

Dr. Touameh, who is also a professor of sociology at the University of Jordan, said that despite modern socio-economic changes, many Arab countries still retain certain characteristics which he said were: "suspending the works of political and popular activities, suppressing the citizen's freedom, freezing and brain-washing his intellect, boosting individualism and feeding the individual with media information which does not respect his thought and intellect but which rather seeks to serve the interests of the executive authority."

Dr. Touameh, an active parliamentarian, suggested that the only way to take the citizen out of this crisis was to provide tools which could remove such "characteristics," from the individual's early years of life, starting from school via family to the society at large.

## Needy students receive help through contributions to one piastre fund

By Najwa Najjar Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Proceeds from the "one piastre a day" campaign have been distributed among underprivileged students to help finance their education, according to Mr. Fakhri Bilbeisi, the vice president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

Over the past year, GUVS has placed wooden boxes on the premises of hotels, banks, schools, pharmacies, shops and in other public places with the hope of collecting one piastre from each person per day. When the project was initiated in early 1986, only 50 boxes were spread around the city. This figure has now risen to over 800 with the aim of distributing another 400 in the coming months, said Mr. Bilbeisi.

Once a month the boxes are emptied and the money is deposited into special accounts in one of the five banks chosen by GUVS. According to Mr. Bilbeisi, JD 20,000 have been gathered through this collection box system. An additional JD 10,000 were donated to the project on mostly an individual basis. "We asked for donations through pamphlets and letters," he said, "and the media was helpful in calling for contributions to this fund."

To help students finance their education, GUVS offered a further JD 40,000 to the scheme.

"The 70,000 was used to pay tuition fees for 200 underprivileged students for the duration of their studies in either universities or community colleges," said Mr. Bilbeisi. He noted that community colleges have been especially supportive by reducing their fees 25 to 35 per cent for students involved in this programme.

The money is given as an interest free loan which the student must repay after graduation. Mr. Bilbeisi said the reason for repayment is to generate income for other underprivileged students in the future. Any low income student with an average of 80 or above in his or her tawjihi exams may apply for the loan as long as there is a guarantor.

## Schools

Students in schools were also helped by the piastre a day fund. There are many tawjihi students who can not even pay the JD 10 exam fee required of them, said Mr. Bilbeisi. "Last year JD 10,000 was distributed among 1,000 tawjihi students all over the Kingdom," he continued. Most schools were able to use the donations they collected from the boxes on their premises. The average amount collected at schools during 1985 was JD 400, said Mr. Bilbeisi.

Last month, a study was

conducted by the 15 member committee in charge of the project to assess the one piastre a day campaign. The committee, which is made up of 10 volunteers and five GUVS members, decided that in the future priority would be given to students entering vocational schools.

Plans for expansion

They plan to expand the programme into the different governorates of the Kingdom. "For the time being, the project is concentrated in the Amman area," said Mr. Bilbeisi, "and we want to further promote it." Also in the future, GUVS plans to use the postal system to distribute the pamphlets describing the project and asking for donations. In an earlier interview Mr. Bilbeisi said that "the idea of the project is to educate adults and children to participate, thereby developing a feeling of wanting to help their society." All those who wish to participate can without being burdened since the sum is only one piastre, he said. For this purpose, schools are given special attention and most of the boxes can be found in schools. He concluded by saying that "it is too soon to judge the programme but there are many signs of encouragement among children and adults. I think the spirit of wanting to help another will continue."

## Junblatt offers himself as 'hostage'

(Continued from page 1)

The independent An Nahar newspaper said on Wednesday that a Shi'ite Muslim physician and former cabinet minister was acting as a link between Mr. Waite and the kidnappers.

Nine foreigners have been abducted in west Beirut since Mr. Waite arrived on his latest bid to free kidnap victims, particularly journalist Terry Anderson and university agriculture Dean Thomas Sutherland, both Americans.

In Tunis, a leading Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official was quoted as saying on Saturday that Mr. Waite was "free to move and is not detained."

Salah Khalaf, head of the



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## Sunday's Economic Pulse

### Jordan's economic recession: Symptoms and remedy

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

In a lecture delivered at the World Affairs Council last Tuesday, Dr. Khalil Al Salem concluded that he was optimistic over Jordan's economic future, but not before giving all the reasons for being otherwise.

The main thrust of Dr. Salem's lecture was that in order to deal with the present economic slow down, we have to rationalise our fiscal policy, reduce public expenditure and close or narrow the budget deficit.

Dr. Salem, an ex-governor of the Central Bank, ex-finance minister and Senate member, was so eloquent in pinpointing the flaws in the financial behaviour of successive Jordanian governments: Huge ill-planned investments such as the south cement factory which cost \$400 million; unnecessary white elephants like Yarmouk engineering building at a cost of JD 55 million; borrowing cheap money from the Central Bank; treating external borrowing as revenue and declaring surpluses at the end of fiscal years.

The lecturer, while not neglecting other issues and cures, stressed that the most pressing challenge facing the management of the economy is to put its financial house in order and to adopt and implement an adjustment and belt-tightening programme.

We wholeheartedly agree with Dr. Salem's point of view, because most of our problems and risks stem from this source, including, of course, the deficit in the balance of payments and the

pressure on foreign exchange. However, while Dr. Salem's prescription could be the cure for many weak points in the economy it may be counter-productive as a cure for economic recession, at least in the short term. In fact Dr. Salem presented his formula as a medicine for recession.

To put it in other words, the prescription is quite correct but the ailment is not merely recession but rather the imbalances and the risks entailed which the lecturer had in mind. A reasonable dose of recession might be needed to reduce imports, maintain reserves, and induce more savings.

In fact Minister of Planning, Dr. Taher Kana'an, capitalised on this point when he asked if the reduction in public expenditure would help in re-activating the under utilised production capacity citing the construction sector as an example.

Mr. Basel Jaraneh, a banker, supported the minister and carried the argument one step further by asserting that deficit in itself is not always bad. It is the public consumption expenditure that should be curbed, while the government capital formation should be welcome, even at the expense of more public expenditure and deficit financing. Dr. Salem agreed to Mr. Jaraneh's argument, at least in part.

Of course there is a difference between capital expenditure and consumption expenditure. The deficit resulting from good invest-

ment is no doubt far better than that arising from unnecessary consumption. But, and that is a big but, there is no guarantee that government investments will be good, especially when they are financed by foreign loans or from the savings of the private sector.

More important, once the government is allowed to expand borrowing and spend more, it is more likely that it will spend more on consumption. The government, any government, is a political animal. It has all the political incentives to spend on consumption under the pressure of special interest groups: more jobs, more services, more subsidies etc. No group is pressuring the government to invest, or for that matter, to make good judgment in choosing investment areas.

Hence Mr. Jaraneh's argument is quite neat and convincing on paper. In real life however, deficit and loans go hand in hand with more public consumption expenditure. The Jordanian government's record on this point is abundantly clear.

Finally, one has to point out that most of the facts and arguments put forward by the lecturer could be "taken for granted" and labeled as "obvious" in an advanced country or among specialists. Yet the obvious nature of economic facts and arguments is no guarantee that they will be accepted or implemented. Unfortunately in most Third World countries the flaws continue until they reach the point of crisis.

## Where will it end?

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan's state of the union address last Tuesday night was a rhetorical tour de force; if only it bore some resemblance to reality. It is difficult to know where to begin discussing such a gold mine of grandiloquence. Perhaps a subject close to home would be best — the Iran arms scandal.

For those who expected a full explanation of the arms dealings with Iran — its origins, purposes, and his role in the proceedings — President Reagan's speech was a definite disappointment. Instead, all President Reagan could muster was a bland statement of guilt: "But though we have made progress, I have one major regret. I took a risk with regard to our action in Iran. It did not work, and for that I assume full responsibility." Thank you, Mr. Reagan, for such a gracious admission. Never mind that the testimonies of some of your key advisers, especially former national security adviser and arms messenger Robert McFarlane, have already confirmed your involvement and approval. And, it might well be noted that you've accepted responsibility for its failure, not its conception and implementation.

Rather, President Reagan called the goals of the deal worthy: "I do not believe it was wrong to try to establish contacts with a country of strategic importance or to try to save lives. And certainly it was not wrong to try to secure freedom for our citizens held in barbaric captivity." To this the U.S. president received a round of applause from Congress. Yes indeed, let us all applaud such a skillful 180 degree pirouette, more graceful than any ballerina. Never mind that he and his administration have been denying that the arms were in exchange for hostages. Oh well, it sounded good.

But wait, there's more. President Reagan went on to say: "And let there be no mistake about American policy: We will not sit idly by if our interests or our friends in the Middle East are threatened, nor will we yield to terrorist blackmail." Now, either President Reagan is a master of irony, or ignorant; take your pick. How in heaven's name can selling arms to Iran, which refuses to consider an end to the Iran-Iraq war and which sponsors groups in Lebanon who are taking American hostages, (four more last week), be promoting the interests of America's friends in the Middle East and standing tall against terrorism? One can only imagine how many nights the White House communications department spends coming up with this twisted rationale.

But, President Reagan appears to say these things with such sincerity that you just want to believe him. He's such a nice guy! Well, nice guy or not, he has done severe damage to U.S. credibility in the Middle East. He has put American friends in the area in an extremely embarrassing and potentially dangerous position; every friend, that is, but one — Israel. In fact, according to all indications, Israel played a major part in initiating the arms deal and served as middle man for a number of the arms transfers. So, now we know which "friends" President Reagan was talking about.

In his address, President Reagan has highlighted, in his own words, how one-sided, short-sighted, and confused his policy is towards the Middle East. Having all but written off the plight of the Palestinians, he and some in his administration proceed to sell arms to a country that is not only sponsoring international terrorism but also continuing to undermine peace and stability through armed conflict in this part of the world. With the Iranians boycotting the Islamic summit, refusing any attempt at mediation in the Gulf war, and threatening the Iraqi city of Basra, it is barely believable that President Reagan could say, in reference to his "risk" of selling arms to the Iranians, that the U.S. should not be afraid "to take risk that could further the cause of peace and freedom in the world." But he did say just that, and we wonder where it will all end.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: The other side of the summit

IN addition to the important political decisions adopted by the fifth Islamic summit in Kuwait, the leaders of Islamic nations passed a number of economic, scientific and cultural resolutions equal in importance to their political decisions. The summit called on rich countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to extend assistance in scientific and cultural fields to less developed member states, and to launch closer cooperation within OIC towards achieving further economic progress. The conference decided to hold a meeting of OIC's ministers of information for the same of drawing up an Islamic information strategy. The conference also resolved to give support and aid to various organisations affiliated to the Islamic Organisation. Jordan has always called on summit meetings for a wider scope of cooperation involving scientific, technical and economic cooperation in addition to political coordination. The Arabs and Muslims ought to have closer cooperation in all these fields if they really wish to achieve their aspired goals and attain prosperity. We are relieved to see the conference adopting Jordan's views in this regard, and we hope that the OIC member nations will put the decisions into practice and launch cooperation among them in all fields. We are hopeful that this will happen since OIC member nations possess vast human and material resources for that purpose, and also for working together in concert to achieve stability, justice and peace.

### Al Dustour: Is Hawke changing heart?

AUSTRALIA'S Prime Minister Bob Hawke, now on a tour of the Middle East, was reported to have made statements in occupied Jerusalem completely reversing his former stand with regard to the Middle East question and Australia's traditional position towards Israel. Hawke was to date one of the most ardent supporters of Israel, and so he was not expected to say anything contrary to that particular stand. The Israelis were apparently taken aback by these statements in which he said he now understands the Arab countries' point of view with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Of course his statements could not have been made before visiting Jordan where he met with King Hussein and learnt all about the Palestine problem and Jordanian views about the establishment of a just and lasting peace. Despite Hawke's unwavering support for Israel in the past, and regardless of Australia's distant location away from the Middle East, the prime minister was quite frank about his own views and those of his government about the situation in this troubled part of the world. What is surprising is the fact that certain European countries which are quite close to this region have failed so far to take a similar constructive attitude. If anything, some Europeans seem now to be retreating from their former position in support of the Arab causes, and even drawing away from the 1980 Venice Declaration on the Middle East question. We appreciate Mr. Hawke's statements in which he voiced his support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and hope that Western nations would follow his example.

## What are the U.S. military options in Gulf?

By Christopher Hanson  
Renter

WASHINGTON — The United States has moved warships closer to the Iran-Iraq war zone and has refused to rule out armed action against hostage-takers in Lebanon, but experts say American military options in the region are limited, fraught with peril, and could backfire.

Private Middle East analysts said the ship movements probably amounted to a demonstration rather than an intention to use force and that Washington was unlikely to take steps to prevent Iranian war advances.

If America did intervene, they said, it could drive Iran into the Soviet orbit.

And if Washington retaliated against perpetrators of a recent spate of abductions in Lebanon as urged by key members of Congress — it would risk hitting the wrong targets, sparking revenge killings of more hostages and bolstering radicals in the region, experts said.

"A military response is highly unfeasible," said Harlan Ullman, a Middle East analyst at the centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a private research organisation.

Washington has sent five warships into the northern Gulf in a show of support for friendly Arab states after recent Iranian advances in its war with Iraq, and positioned an aircraft carrier closer to Lebanon.

It has also decided to keep the carrier John F. Kennedy in the Mediterranean rather than send it home next month, and has ordered a third carrier, the Kitty Hawk, to move quickly from the Philippines to the northern Arabian Sea.

Washington has long feared an Iranian victory could spread anti-Western Islamic fundamentalism through the Middle East.

Secretary of State George Shultz said last week: "We have repeatedly warned Iran that any extension of the conflict would be regarded as a major threat to U.S. interests."

But Joyce Starr, director of CSIS's Near East programme, said in an interview: "On a scale of zero to 10, the chances of U.S. military action are zero — we're paper tigers... all bluster, and the Iranians know it."

She said the Reagan administration's controversial policy of selling arms to Iran had opened a Pandora's box, encouraging others to supply weaponry and giving Tehran a psychological boost in its debilitating six-year-old war with Iraq.

The Reagan administration officially observes a policy of neutrality in the conflict, but critics have charged this has been compromised by the secret Iran arms deal, which has enraged the U.S. public and ignited Reagan's greatest crisis.

Starr and other analysts doubted the United States would intervene in the war unless Iran directly threatened oil-rich Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which they said was unlikely.

They said such a direct threat was improbable and that even if Iranian troops took the Iraqi city of Basra in their latest offensive the war would drag on.

Should Washington be drawn into conflict with Iran, it could risk a serious superpower confrontation, as Iran shares a border with the Soviet Union, other analysts said.

Robert Hunter, who was a foreign policy adviser for President Jimmy Carter, said "If the United States uses military force against Iran, you can expect the Soviet Union to use military force to secure a chunk of northern Iran."

Another risk would be that U.S. intervention would lead to factional fighting in Iran — which Hunter termed "the overwhelming strategic prize in the region" — and a new Tehran government that looked to Moscow for protection.

Key members of Congress — including Democratic Rhode Island senator Claiborne Pell, chairman of the foreign relations committee — have backed a military response against those responsible for seizing U.S. hostages in Lebanon. The White House says it will not rule out use of force.

Four professors, three of them Americans, were kidnapped in Beirut last week, bringing to eight the number of Americans known to be held hostage in Lebanon by militant groups.

A radical Islamic group calling itself the "Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth" has claimed responsibility for the kidnappings and has threatened to kill a hostage unless a Lebanese held on hijacking charges in West Germany is freed.

Some congressmen have called for attacks on any nations shown to have sponsored the kidnappings, saying Iran and Syria are two suspects.

But any military action ran the risk of reprisals against other hostages or other American targets, according to William Quandt, a foreign policy specialist at the private Brookings Institution.

## Sudan's uncertain balancing act

Andrew Buckoke, reporting from Khartoum, looks at Sudan's efforts towards constitutional reform designed to meld the country's diverse population and a debt repayment problem that won't go away.

KHARTOUM — It is hard to believe that Khartoum is the capital of Sudan, a country suffering from the ravages of civil war, the after-effects of famine and more than \$13 billion debt. Its income from export last year is expected to be about \$250 million.

There are almost continuous traffic jams on largely pothole-free roads, a lot of new buildings, plenty of good bread, video libraries and a reasonable selection of imported consumer goods, while the black market offers a premium of less than 20 per cent on official exchange rates.

This is partly the result of scarce resources being diverted to keep the townspeople happy — their strikes and demonstrations were the main instrument in the downfall of President Jaafar Numeiri in 1985. But it also illustrates the success of Mr. Sadiq el-Mahdi's government, elected last April after a year of transitional military government, in attracting foreign aid despite the huge existing debt.

The desire of Western and conservative Arab states, led by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, to keep Egypt's strategic neighbour free of Marxism-Islamic fundamentalism and the clutches of Libya and Ethiopia has overcome their reluctance to provide further assistance to a country which has no intention or ability to come to terms with the International Monetary Fund, to which it is \$400 million in arrears, or service its existing debt.

Dr. Bashir Omer, the Finance Minister, in his June budget li-

mitted debt service payments to \$208 million or 25 per cent of the amount due. His long-term solution to "the enormous volume of our economic problems" relies upon donors writing off or rescheduling their loans.

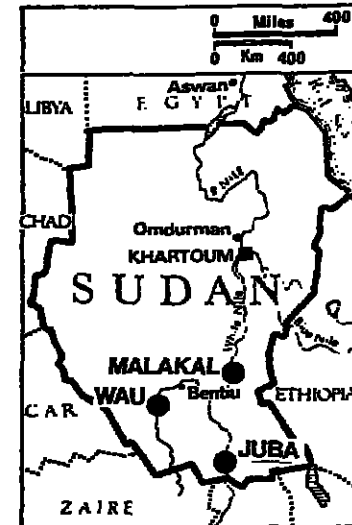
While the aid, particularly free oil from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, is keeping the country moving, Western diplomats fear that official price fixing for basic commodities, restrictions on imports, the overvaluation of the Sudanese pound and the general interventionist tendency of the government may strangle any recovery.

But it would be political suicide to give free rein to the merchants' traditional pursuits of hoarding, speculation and price fixing. Inflation is already about 50 per cent and the November student demonstrations in Khartoum sought — this time without success — to take political advantage of the shortages and high prices of meat and sugar, caused by the merchants' refusal to sell at official prices.

Though most people in the Muslim, Arabic-speaking north ignore the three-year-old war against the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the Christian and animist African south, its resolution remains the key to Sudan's development.

The southern garrison towns of Juba, Malakal and Wau continue to be irregularly blockaded.

Although military aircraft, river barges and truck convoys periodically get through, they are now probably the only places in Sudan threatened by large-scale



starvation. Information on the hinterland is sketchy, but the rains have been good.

The Americans, Kenyans and others are pressing both sides to resume negotiation — broken off when a civilian airline was shot down by the SPLA in August — under their mediation. Mr. Sadiq says he aims to push through a constitutional amendment during the effect of the Islamic sharia legal code, whose imposition by Mr. Numeiri in 1983 led to the resurgence of the civil war.

However, both initiatives are fraught with uncertainty. Though Mr. Sadiq is believed to accept the idea of mediation, other members of his government dismiss it. Foreign Minister Sharif el-Hindi says the SPLA are "out-laws and it is their problem to find a solution." Mr. Sadiq insists the SPLA demonstrates its independence from Ethiopian control before "serious negotiations" can take place, and has blamed the continuation of the war on "foreign interference."

The main obstacles are internal.

The key constitutional amendment proposed, that sharia be replaced by a combination of Islam, Christianity and other religions as the source of legislation, falls far short of the demands of both the SPLA and the southern parties within the government coalition.

At the same time, the Democratic Unionist Party, the biggest party in the coalition after his own Umma Party, has many members who might vote with the Islamic National Front, the party of the Muslim Brotherhood, which opposes any dilution of sharia and represents the most serious threat to the government within the northern Muslim majority.

These are not the only complications. The war has an increasingly tribal character. The SPLA is mainly drawn from the Dinka majority in the south and the army has armed militias from the Nuer, Shilluk and other tribes that fear Dinka domination to fight as its proxies, with the result of frequent atrocities and self-sustaining vendettas.

The immediate economic gains of a settlement would not be great. The huge digging machines for the Jonglei canal to drain the Sudd swamps and increase flows lower down the Nile have been severely damaged. The southern oilfields around Bentiu would not be viable at an oil price of less than \$24 a barrel and Chevron, which has already spent over \$1 billion in Sudan, would probably not resume activities there even if the war ended.

But a settlement is essential for the long-term stability and prosperity of Sudan. Mr. Sadiq has to balance the demands of the SPLA and the IMF before he can achieve a settlement, in the knowledge that the army might intervene at any time in the name of strong government — Financial Times news feature.

## Mubarak puts Egypt back on Arab map

By Kate Dourlian  
Renter

KUWAIT — President Hosni Mubarak appears to have put Egypt back on the Arab political map with a series of private contacts at this week's Islamic summit in Kuwait.

The fifth Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit provided Mubarak with a back door into the Arab heartland and the chance of a series of behind-the-scenes meetings with key Arab leaders.

Diplomats in Kuwait, which hosted the largest gathering of Islamic leaders since the OIC's inception 18 years ago, attached

special significance to the fact that King Fahd of Saudi Arabia gave audience to Mubarak twice in four days.

While Mubarak's return to the Arab fold might lack the drama of the late President Anwar Sadat's peace journey to Israel in 1977, it put Egypt one step closer to acceptability by the Arabs who shunned his predecessor.

Egypt was readmitted to the Organisation of Islamic Conference in 1984 after a five year suspension over its separate peace treaty with Israel, allowing Mubarak to lead his delegation to the four-day summit last week. "Summits are important even if they only succeed in breaking the

ice between differing sides," Mubarak had said before leaving Cairo for Kuwait.

His statement proved prophetic when he captured headlines in a hand-shaking encounter with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Egypt's most vociferous critic.

With hands clasped, Mubarak and Assad walked into the conference hall in the first conciliatory gesture the two political adversaries have made in public since they last shook hands four years ago.

"I have some things I want to discuss with you," Mubarak told Assad, who replied: "We have our principles, you know them

and I would prefer not to," according to delegates nearby.

But the ice was broken. Both men departed from their prepared texts when they addressed the same summit session, which did not lead to the expected showdown.

"There are a lot of things I could say but I am not going to say them," were Mubarak's ad-libbed opening remarks. They had a smiling Assad, whose name means lion in Arabic, joining in the round of applause.

Assad in turn toned down attacks on Egypt, the only Arab state to have relations with Israel.

"We were expecting a fiery Arab radical and instead got a gentlemanly professor," one delegate said of the Syrian leader.

One immediate result of the brief encounter between the two men was a decision to send an Egyptian delegate to Damascus to discuss differences over Middle East politics, Egypt's semi-official Al Ahrar, whose editor is close to Mubarak, reported.

Most Gulf Arab states have improved their relations with Egypt since the 1979 peace treaty with Israel, mainly through mutual support for Iraq in the war against Iran.

The conflict dominated the summit agenda, but with Iran boycotting the meeting, delegates failed to produce a new peace formula to end the war.

One delegate said Arab leaders had realised that Egypt's political weight was a necessary ingredient to resolving the conflict, now in its seventh year.

This also was the theme of an editorial in a leading Kuwaiti daily on Friday, lamenting Egypt's absence from the Arab political scene and calling for a collective move by Arab states to restore ties to Egypt, severed in 1979.

"The Arabs have finally realised that they are paralysed without Egypt. They cannot make peace without Egypt. They cannot make war either," one senior delegate said.

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## Editors are changed at genteel 'New Yorker'

By Michael Roddy  
Reporter

NEW YORK — After publishing magnate Samuel Newhouse bought the New Yorker in 1985 and introduced multi-page advertising inserts, the magazine ran a cartoon of a motorway sign warning of advertising supplements ahead.

No such good humour greeted the latest change, however, as Newhouse replaced the top editor

of America's premier journal of letters, putting book publisher Robert Gottlieb in the job held for 35 years by William Shawn.

Many of the staff, appalled by what they considered callous treatment of the 79-year-old Shawn and the prospect of an outsider taking over, signed a letter to Gottlieb urging him not to take the post.

Gottlieb declined the advice and said he expected to begin work in mid-February.

"It's a stimulating change and I felt I needed one," said Gottlieb, who is resigning as president and editor-in-chief of Alfred A. Knopf Publishers, a prestigious house.

"The New Yorker is a wonderful magazine... it was an irresistible opportunity," he told Reuters.

But many on the staff were left with a bitter taste, feeling the venerable Shawn was ill served by Newhouse, the multi-mil-

lionaire owner of Vogue, Vanity Fair, Gentlemen's Quarterly and a host of newspapers.

A January 13 letter from Newhouse to the New Yorker staff about Gottlieb's appointment said that Shawn had "informed me that he will retire March 1."

But New Yorker editors and reporters said Shawn, who has declined to talk to outside reporters, had told them he expected to stay until summer, breaking in his hand-picked successor, Chip McGrath, a New Yorker editor for 15 years.

"According to Mr. Shawn, whom I've never caught in a lie, it was his intention to depart in the summer after he'd given Mr. McGrath an adequate brief," William Knapp, an editor of the New Yorker's long, detailed non-fiction articles, told Reuters.

Such matters might seem a tempest in a teapot outside the circle of New York literati for whom the New Yorker, which has a circulation of over 500,000 copies weekly, has been required reading almost since its inaugural issue on February 21, 1925.

But words — who said what to whom and when — have always been important at the New Yorker, which prides itself on the quality of its prose, the fact-checking department that makes its accuracy legendary, and the list of staff and contributors that reads like the who's who of American arts and letters.

Over the years, New Yorker regulars have included E.B. White, James Thurber, J.D.



Selinger, John Updike, John Cheever, Robert Benchley, Ved Mehta, Dorothy Parker, S.J. Perelman, John Hersey, Ann Beattie, John McPhee and Vladimir Nabokov.

It also is a magazine which — an anomaly in the quick-paced age of electronic media — resists change.

Gottlieb is only its third chief editor, following Shawn and founding editor Harold Ross.

The magazine did not print a table of contents for almost 50 years and articles run for column after column without the benefit of photographs — although readers are invited to purchase all kinds of luxury goods and services in the lavish, colour adverts that run alongside.

"Any change at the New Yorker is always regarded as risky," said Brendan Gill, a drama critic for the magazine and chronicler of its colourful history in his book "here at the New Yorker".

Staffers worry that someone from outside — someone not steeped in the New Yorker tradition — might be unable to sustain the character of the magazine, which began as a sophisticated, jokey review modelled on Bri-

tain's "punch" and flourished into a showcase for America's best writers.

The previous owners — a wealthy family that provided founder Ross with seed money in 1925 and financial backing over the years — were "almost ridiculously indifferent to matters of making money," said staff writer James Lardner.

The magazine — which runs cartoons, short stories, reviews, political commentary, light features on New York happenings and long features on topics ranging from the hazards of asbestos to the geology of Wyoming — has been "criticised for being long-winded and not jazzy enough," Lardner said.

"Whoever takes over will be having to answer those criticisms," he said, adding that staff members feared an "outsider" might be less able to resist pressures for change.

But Gill said the New Yorker staff had been "spoiled with benign, paternalistic management."

"The pictogram in Chinese for crisis is also the pictogram for opportunity," he said. "If you stay alert and do reflect your time you survive."

## Israel: A haven for criminals

By Dan Izenberg  
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — The case of a French Jew fighting extradition to serve a life sentence for murder focuses attention on a recurring problem facing leaders who must decide if Israel should shelter Jewish criminals.

Those supporting the Frenchman, William Nakash, include leaders of Israel's orthodox religious community.

Many of Nakash's supporters regard him as a symbol of the plight of the Jews throughout history. They view his case as another example of problems encountered by members of a persecuted minority.

Rabbi Eliezer Waldman, a parliament member from the right-wing Tehiya Party, said Israel was established as a homeland for all Jewish people.

"The Jewish state is a state for all types of Jews — the good and the not so good," he said.

A basic tenet of the Jewish state is the 1950 law of return, which grants automatic citizenship to any Jew who claims it.

But opponents fear a precedent that would turn Israel into a haven for Jewish criminals.

"The government's decision not to extradite could create a situation where more criminals will think they can come here to solve their problems," said Shimon Shetret, a law professor.

He represents 11 professors from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem who appealed to the supreme court to try to overturn the government's refusal to honour France's extradition request.

Israel radio's French service reported recently that 60 Israelis are wanted for criminal charges abroad, and half of them took Israeli citizenship after committing their crimes.

One fugitive who sought refuge in Israel was the late Meyer Lansky, a U.S. crime figure. He moved to Israel in July 1970, just ahead of indictments for racketeering and tax evasion.

After a two-year legal battle, Israel's supreme court refused Lansky citizenship, ruling that his "criminal past might endanger the public welfare." He was expelled in November 1972.

Shmuel Flatto-Sharon, a Pol-

ish-born French Jew, was more successful, avoiding a French extradition warrant for the past 15 years. A businessman believed to be worth \$100 million, Flatto-Sharon was convicted in absentia in France and sentenced to five years in prison on charges of fraud and tax evasion.

Flatto-Sharon, elected in 1977 to Israel's Knesset, was shielded by parliamentary immunity until losing his seat in 1981. Last year he was arrested in Italy on the extradition warrant, but escaped using a forged passport.

Nakash, came to Israel and claimed his right to citizenship under the law of return after the February 1983 shooting of Abdul-Hakkar, an Algerian-born Arab immigrant. The shooting occurred in Besancon, a town near the French-Swiss border.

The French court ruled that the shooting was part of a struggle for control of Besancon's night clubs.

The French government demanded Nakash's extradition in November 1983. A Besancon court convicted Nakash in absentia of first-degree murder and sentenced him to life in prison in May 1984.

Nakash's attorney, Roland Roth, claimed his client shot Hakkar to protect Besancon's Jewish community from increasing Arab anti-Semitism. Roth argued in court that Nakash would be killed by vengeful Arab inmates if he returned to France.

Justice Minister Avraham Shari agreed and refused to extradite Nakash, prompting the appeal to the supreme court by the professors and left-wing parliament members.

They contended that Nakash poses a threat to society if allowed to go free in Israel. His opponents cited Nakash's detention on March 1985 in Israel on a charge of armed robbery of a Christian clergyman. The charge later was dropped.

Nakash subsequently became a "born-again" Jew and has been supported by the orthodox, including Israel's two chief rabbis. The rabbinate, whose rulings on family matters have the force of law in the Jewish state, issued a ban on Nakash leaving the country because it would make his wife, Rina, an abandoned woman unable to have children or remarry.

## Reverberating conundrum: how to fit a silencer to a snorer

By Harmut Schergel

Snoring is a health hazard for both snorer and those who have to listen. Snoring is allegedly to blame for one divorce in five. Cures include a DMSO device invented by a dentist from Viersen, near Dusseldorf in West Germany. He is the latest inventor in a long line.

HELGA FELLBACH, a 34-year-old secretary, is a typical victim. She is tired all day, often nervous and exhausted.

The reason? Her boyfriend, Hans, snores. Night after night she can't sleep.

Whenever he drinks he snores louder. She has tried everything. Shaking him doesn't work. Putting a hand over his mouth does — for a few seconds.

On nights like these she usually ends up on the living-room sofa, like millions of fellow-sufferers.

The World Health Organisation says one adult in 10 is a noisy snorer. An estimated 15 million West Germans, or one in four, are said to snore.

More men snore than women, more women than children or juveniles. And over-60s of both sexes are particularly productive in the nocturnal decibel department.

Professor Karlheinz Meier-Ewert, head of the neurological clinic in Treysa, says 50 per cent of men and 40 per cent of women snore by the age of 60.

The German Pharmacists' Association has an even more disturbing figure. It says nine out of 10 adults snore.

This is a far cry from the North Rhine-Westphalian Labour, Health and Welfare Ministry's claim that a mere nine per cent of men and 3.6 per cent of women are regular snorers.

Grete Scheida, a teacher from Wesseling, has strong views on the subject. "You can have no idea of the pent-up, suppressed rage of a snorer's victim," she says, "until you have sat up at night trying to read Rilke poems with a snorer snoring alongside you."

This pent-up rage can have disastrous long-term repercussions. "Love," she says, "can be throttled, paralysed and choked, if not killed."

The Pharmacists' Association agrees. Snoring rather than infidelity, it says, has been the downfall of many a marriage.

One divorce in five is said to be triggered by either husband or wife no longer being able to bear the other's snoring.

Divorce doesn't always do the trick. In Vienna a husband took his father-in-law to court for snoring night after night. He wanted him out of the house.

The court ruled that the old man's snoring was not a breach of the domestic peace. He could, carry on snoring for as long as he liked and was entitled to share his son-in-law's home.

Snoring may thus not be a breach of the peace or an infringement of property rights, but a Berlin administrative court has held that snoring is admissible as evidence.

It did so in connection with an appeal against a judgment by a Mainz court on the ground that one of the judges had slept during the proceedings.

The appeal was dismissed. A judge whose eyes were closed need not, the court felt, be asleep. Further evidence, such as loud, even breathing or snoring,

was needed to substantiate the claim.

The Roche medical dictionary distinguishes between ordinary, habitual snorers and what it calls obstacle snorers.

The latter snore when their respiratory tract becomes narrower as they breathe through their mouths, their chin and tongue muscles relax, their chin falls, their tongue is pulled back and their uvula at the back of the palate starts to vibrate.

The noise level can be awesome. Up to 69 decibels is far from uncommon. Pneumatic drills hammer away at between 70 and 90 decibels, by way of comparison.

The world record is claimed for an Englishman whose snore is said to have registered 87.5 decibels.

Both the snorer and his victim are tired, nervous and barely capable of a clear thought the morning after — even though the snorer may seem to have slept like a log and sounded like a lumberjack.

The victim has, of course, been kept awake by the seemingly blissful, infuriating, nerve-racking snore. But the snorer isn't usually a heavy sleeper; snorers have been known to wake up as many as 250 times a night.

What is more, they sleep dangerously. Research scientists at Bologna University have concluded from years of tests that a regular and persistent snorer does himself both heart and brain damage.

The ordinary sleeper's blood pressure falls by between 20 and 30 per cent, whereas the snorer's stays at its waking level round the clock. Circulation and cardiac trouble or even a stroke can be the consequence.

Scientists have also found snorers to stop breathing several times nightly for up to 160 seconds — long enough to seriously interrupt the vital exchange of oxygen between the lungs and the blood.

The input of oxygen bound for the brain is brought to a halt for a while — long enough to permanently impair the brainpower of a habitual snorer.

Whether viewed as an illness or as a bad habit, snoring can have many causes. They range from nasal congestion to a swollen palate, from inflamed tonsils and polyp to a heavy cold that impedes breathing.

Other, congenital causes can include the shape of the snorer's chin or nose or flabby tissue. Many people snore because they are too fat, have drunk too much or have taken tranquillisers.

An old adage that must be taken with a pinch of salt is the fond belief that people snore when lying flat on their backs and will stop snoring if they can be persuaded to lie on their sides.

This rule of thumb doesn't always work, says Viersen dentist Atanas Pecanov, the author of a book on snoring and inventor of an anti-snoring device he calls a biomechanical activator.

In his book he also arrives at the unsurprising conclusion that: "Unpleasant noises in the mouth and throat are a social problem, especially where several people have to sleep in the same room."

He also identifies three basic categories of snorer. The first snores on his back with his mouth open, the second snores on his side with his mouth closed and the third always snores no matter whether his mouth is open or closed, he is lying on his right side



Now you hear him, now you don't. Dr. Pecanov with the anti-snoring device

or his left or on his back or his stomach. If Dr. Pecanov's "intra-oral observations" are accurate, snorers can no longer feel confident that no-one could pick them out in a crowd in broad daylight. He claims to be able to identify a snorer from his physique. True or not, there can be no disputing that snoring is a problem as old as sleep and that nocturnal noise abatement has been a constant preoccupation of

people unable to get a good night's sleep because of a snoring spouse.

In 1889 Wilhelm Mosters from Strasbourg applied for a German patent for an anti-snoring device that resembled a collar and was claimed to keep the sleeper's chin up and mouth closed.

In 1925 Amalie Draguhn from Lubbeck patented a tongue device to be used at night to stop the snorer's tongue from slipping

back into its noisome position.

Hermann Knaus, the Viennese professor who gave his name to the natural method of birth control, also devised an anti-snoring bandage, the Silenzia.

Made of foam rubber, it was a kind of elastic band worn round the head to keep the chin up and mouth closed, thereby ensuring noiseless sleep.

The latest craze at one stage was an anti-snoring headband worn horizontally, as it were, unlike Professor Knaus's device. It included an iron tooth worn at the back of the head that stopped the wearer from sleeping on his back.

Whenever he slipped on to his back the tooth dug into his skull. It hurt. He woke up. And turned over on to his side again.

The North Rhine-Westphalian Labour, Health and Welfare Ministry runs a taped message service that relays health hints. A record number of callers have rung to find out what the men from the ministry have to say about snoring.

Sad to say, callers are told little more than the old bromides such as "try not to sleep on your back."

Other tips of doubtful value include blowing your nose before going to bed, giving the bedroom a good airing and raising the foot of the bed to improve blood circulation in the brain.

Other doubtful hints are to make sure the bowels and bladder are empty before going to bed and to fit humidifiers in the bedroom so that nose and throat membranes do not dry out during the night.

Yet snorers and their victims are still at a loss what to do, and news items on the latest cure soon prove to be a mere flash in the pan.

Take the Sonarex anti-snoring

drops marketed by Bremen ear, nose and throat specialist Dr. Dietrich Reichert after 30 years of research.

A Berlin medical newsletter promptly dismissed the drops as "expensive humbug," leaving hapless snorers to their own devices.

Some are so desperate they even resort to surgery. Tonsils are removed, uvulas shortened and palates tensioned up. Throat muscles are "lifted" in much the same way as in plastic surgery.

Others try electric shock therapy. A microphone monitors the patient's snoring. When it exceeds a prearranged noise level an electric shock is administered to wake up the offender. This device is available as a pillow or a collar.

A British doctor claims to have developed this technique further. He says his patients, who are given electric shocks in the arm, are not woken up; the shock merely triggers a "mental barrier" to snoring.

After a few weeks' use his device, he says, no longer needed. The patient is cured. His arm continues to throb periodically while he sleeps, but sooner or later that stops.

Dr. Pecanov's device, which he spent seven years perfecting, was hailed even more enthusiastically, with headlines proclaiming "Peace and Quiet At Last in the Bedroom" and "Secret Weapon Stops Snoring."

His "biomechanical activator" looks very much like an upper set of false teeth or a gumshield. Its main feature is an adjustable plate that keeps the tongue apart from the soft palate.

Air finds its way unhindered into the mouth, throat and lungs — and does so noiselessly. But users complain of nausea.

Kolner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne.

## Sabah Fakhri keeps classical Arab music alive

By Issam Hamza  
Reporter

ABU DHABI — Sabah Fakhri can sing for 14 unbroken hours, but he does not want a mention in the Guinness book of world records — his name is already etched in the memories of millions of Arabs who adore classical Arab music.

Since the start of his musical career 40 years ago, Fakhri has devoted himself to preserving classical songs and musical forms increasingly abandoned by modern Arab singers.

He is now considered the last surviving giant of the classical Arab song, which dates to the ninth century.

"The West is still preserving the music of Bach and Handel," Fakhri told Reuters after a concert in Abu Dhabi. "Why can't the Arabs maintain their musical heritage?"

Fakhri, 57, was born in Aleppo, capital of northern Syria and one of the most prestigious centres of Arab music. He began singing before the age of 10 and his talent and strong voice persuaded Sheikh Ali Al Darwish, the noted Arab composer, to take him to the Damascus conservatory.

His voice first filtered to the Arab public through Syrian radio in 1947 and his vocal stamina became legend through live concerts televised in the 1960s.

At a concert in Aleppo as recently as 1984, he sang for 14

hours to an enraptured audience, starting at eight in the evening and finishing at ten the next morning. He repeated the feat in Caracas, Venezuela.

"I did not mean to sing that long and I was not trying to secure a place in the Guinness book of records," he said. "I was just reacting to the audience who did not let me leave the stage, and I enjoyed that a lot."

Fakhri has harsh words for modern singers whom he says are

corrupting Arab music. "They abandon their heritage and pursue cheap means to get rich in the fastest possible way," he said.

He blamed radio, television and the press for lack of discrimination in disseminating new voices.

He said he was not opposed to modernisation per se, only to that which abandoned the essence of Arab music — its tones, instruments, forms and rhythms.

Modern songs tend to be faster

and shorter and played on Western instruments. They bear only a distant resemblance to the five main forms of classical Arab song: Al Durr, Al Muwashshah, Al Qudoudi Al Halabiah, Al Qasidah and Al Mawwal.

Fakhri said he opposed the introduction of electric instruments into the Arab orchestra. As head of the Syria Artists' Union, he ordered all orchestras to use the oud (lute) as their main string instrument.

Fakhri has sung in every Arab state, Latin American countries with large Arab communities and many cities in Europe and North America. In Miami, he was given the keys to the city after a concert.

He has special memories of a concert outside Paris where he was chosen to open an Arab music festival and was warmly received by the mainly-Western audience.

Fakhri expressed support for an Arab artists' union established in Cairo at the end of last year and said he hoped it would help to achieve the unity which Arabs had so far failed to realise through political means.

He also paid tribute to Abdul Hakim Nowairah, an Egyptian troupe which is reviving traditional songs.

"I will continue my efforts to promote traditional music among present and future generations. What moves me is the great need to ensure that our music will not die," he said.



Sabah Fakhri

## German aid gives priority to small-scale projects

By Karl Zander

BONN (Dad) — Germany's Federal government is increasingly channelling its development cooperation with Third World countries via non-governmental organisations, or NGOs.

Development aid funds earmarked for this purpose have steadily increased and now amount to roughly 10 per cent of total aid estimates, says Volkmar Kohler, parliamentary state secretary at the Federal Economic Cooperation Ministry. Bonn's development aid budget will total DM7 billion this year.

"There can be no denying," Herr Kohler said in Bonn, "that the generally acknowledged fine work done by NGOs is deserving of confidence and that they ought accordingly to be allocated even more funds." Most of these organisations raise substantial funds of their own toward development cooperation activities and are paid only grants or subsidies by the Federal government.

The Catholic and Protestant churches are the mainstays of non-governmental development aid. Their activities concentrate on education and health, agriculture and social work. Party-political foundations — the Konrad Adenauer, Friedrich Ebert,

Friedrich Naumann and Hanns Seidel foundations — closely collaborate with political parties, trade unions, cooperatives and adult education organisations in Third World host countries.

The Economic Cooperation Ministry in Bonn lends financial support to a further 32 organisations specialising, in particular, in help to self-help in the rural sector and in the landlocked and least-developed countries (LDCs). These organisations include the German Freedom from Hunger Campaign, the German Leprosy Relief Fund, the German Red Cross and the Workers' Welfare Association.

With Bonn government backing for large-scale industrial projects on the decline in the framework of German bilateral aid and numbers of small-scale rural and self-help projects on the increase, even closer cooperation with NGOs is a distinct possibility.

"Government aid is simply too expensive for many small-scale measures involving self-help groups," Herr Kohler says. NGOs are usually more effective in this sector because they generally work with NGOs in the host countries and have less trouble with red tape.

## Moroccan skeleton too big for a cupboard

By Charles Lambelin  
Reporter

RABAT — You are unlikely to find this skeleton in a cupboard because the cupboard would have to be the size of a house.

Morocco boasts the discovery of a dinosaur skeleton which makes foreign museum curators envious. It is not the largest in the world but it is the most complete. "Hardly a bone is missing from this herbivorous sauropod which lived some 165 million years ago and was found intact in the Atlas mountains in 1980," says Ahmed Ouazzon, a paleontologist who looks after the remains of the dead reptile as if it were his pet.

When alive the beast weighed from 15 to 20 tonnes. It was about 18 metres long. Its small head, towering about eight metres from the ground, grazed the ceiling of the ministry of energy and mines where it has recently been put on display.

Morocco claims to be the only country in the world to have a full skeleton of this species, *sebecosaurus mogrebiensis*, one of the rarest and oldest of the dinosaurs.

The first skeleton of a dinosaur was assembled in the Paris zoo in

1908 by an American paleontologist but it was made from bones of four different animals found in a quarry at Sheep Creek, Wyoming.

In Morocco's case, the whole skeleton was found in one place, exactly where the dead animal's carcass came to rest.

One of the theories for its remarkable state of preservation is that the dinosaur was carried a short distance by an overflowing river, sank on the river bed in a bend and was slowly covered by mud.

The fossilised bones were spotted by a geologist on a 1,500-metre hilltop near Tilouguit in the high Atlas mountains, 200 kilometres south east of Casablanca.

"Each bone was carefully dug out, cleaned and wrapped in bandages and plaster. It took us about four months," says Ouazzon, from the natural science museum housed in the ministry.

"The smaller bones, up to 100 kilos, were carried down to Azilal, the nearest town, by donkeys. But the heaviest pieces had to be lifted by helicopters. Do you realise that the hip bone alone weighs half a tonne?" he said.



# Ireland's Coghlan wins record 7th Millrose mile

**NEW YORK (R)** — Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan ran the perfect tactical race to land a record seventh win in the showpiece men's mile at the 80th Millrose Games indoor athletics meeting at Madison Square Garden.

The 34-year-old 5,000 metres world champion struck on the final circuit of the 11-lap event to secure a remarkable victory in three minutes 55.91 seconds.

Fellow-Irishman Marcus O'Sullivan, who denied Coghlan his record with victory here last year, took second here Friday night in 3:56.48 and Spain's Jose Abascal finished third in 3:56.98.

The victory enabled Coghlan, holder of the world best indoors for the distance, to succeed Glenn Cunningham as winner of most Millrose miles.

The American triumphed on six occasions between 1933 and 1939. Earlier, world champion Greg Foster powered to an impressive 60-yard hurdles win over bitter rival Renato Nehemiah, holder of the world best for the distance, and Olympic champion Roger Kingdom in a pulsating all-American battle.

And Carl Lewis, winner of four gold medals at the 1984 Olympics, suffered a surprise defeat in the men's 60 yards when world best holder Lee McRae led from gun to tape to win in 6.12 seconds. Lewis clocked 6.14.

American Antonio McKay also swept to an emphatic victory in the men's 400 metres ahead of Nigerian Innocent Egbunike and

Jamaican world champion Bert Cameron.

But it was Coghlan who stole the show. Content to allow Mark Fricker to dictate the pace for the opening half of the race, Coghlan began to make his presence felt with three laps remaining.

Irishman Ray Flynn picked up the pace from Abascal with two laps to go but Coghlan brought the crowd to their feet when he eased passed his compatriot on the final back straight and opened a decisive gap.

Off the final bend, the "Chairman of the Boards" as he is known, clenched his fists to acknowledge his achievement before crossing the line.

Coghlan's victory followed fears last month that he would miss the entire indoor season after being attacked by a dog, suffering a severe leg wound and breaking a bone in his hand.

Friday night was the 10th anniversary of his first Millrose mile triumph in 1977.

Briton Steve Ovett, the 1980 Olympic 800 metres champion making his first appearance indoors anywhere in the world since 1975, had a nightmare evening.

He was never in contention and drifted 25 yards off the pack but

hung on to finish.

"Three years ago I sat in the stands and watched this race with Glenn (Cunningham) and we talked about experience," Coghlan said.

"That's what I focused on tonight. I wanted to be cool, calm and collected and didn't want to get over-anxious."

He said he would compete in the 3,000 metres in Ottawa Saturday in an attempt to record a qualifying time for the inaugural World Indoor Championships in Indianapolis in March.

After the race Ovett complained of suffering from a cold and said he had not felt well. Foster had to battle all the way to overhaul Mark McKay in an enthralling high-hurdles event.

He finally reeled in the Canadian with 20 yards left and snatched victory in 6.98 seconds.

Nehemiah, back competing indoors this season after a four-year spell in American football, came through on Foster's shoulder to take second place as McKay faded to fourth. Kingdom was a surprising fifth.

Lewis swept his 60 yards heat but then struggled to get on terms with McRae in the final after a poor start.

Afterwards he said: "The knee feels great. I felt good running but I made some mistakes out of the blocks. I ran 6.14 which is faster than I ran last year."

American Tim Lewis set the only world best of the night clocking 5:41.12 to win the mile walk.

## NBA roundup

### Chicago Bulls lose to Philadelphia

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Michael Jordan, the NBA's leading scorer, put on another show. Still, it still wasn't enough to stop Charles Barkley and the Philadelphia 76ers.

Jordan scored 49 points Friday night, but Barkley had 40 points and 21 rebounds as Philadelphia beat the Chicago Bulls 121-112.

"It doesn't matter how many points he had. We won the game. That's the important thing," Barkley said.

"I would rather win the game than have the personal stats any game in the season," Jordan said after Chicago's fourth consecutive loss.

Tim McCormick finished with 14 points and David Wingate had 12 for the 76ers. Charles Oakley had 18 points and 17 rebounds for the Bulls.

In other NBA games, Boston beat Indiana 100-94, the Los Angeles Lakers downed Phoenix 114-102, Atlanta defeated New York 106-98, Dallas beat Milwaukee 133-117, Golden State defeated Seattle 127-119, Portland stopped New Jersey 125-107 and San Antonio defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 124-120 in overtime.

### Mavericks 133, Bucks 117

Derek Harper and Mark Aguirre scored 28 points each and Dallas beat Milwaukee in a record-setting game for 3-point shots.

Detlef Schrempf scored 15 points with 10 rebounds and 10 assists for host Dallas. John Lucas scored 21 points and Hodges 19 for the Bucks, who had won three in a row.

Hawks 106, Knicks 98

Atlanta's Dominique Wilkins outscored his brother Gerald 31-23 as the Hawks sent New York to its fifth straight loss.

Kevin Willis scored 15 for the host Hawks. Gerald Henderson got 18 for the Knicks and Patrick Ewing 16.

Celtics 100, Pacers 94

Kevin McHale scored nine of his 31 points during a third-quarter burst as visiting Boston wiped out a 14-point deficit and beat Indiana for its sixth straight victory.

Chuck Person scored 26 for the Pacers, who have lost five in a row.

Lakers 114, Suns 102

A.C. Green scored 25 points and Kareem Abdul Jabbar 23 while Magic Johnson had a sea-

son-high 19 assists as the Lakers won in Phoenix. Larry Nance scored 18 for Phoenix.

Spurs 124, Clippers 120.

Alvin Robertson scored six of his 25 points in overtime and San Antonio beat the Clippers in Los Angeles for its fourth straight victory.

The Clippers, who have lost 34 of their last 37 games, forced the overtime when Darnell Valentine made a three-point shot with six seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. Valentine finished with 24 points.

Warriors 127, Supersonics 119

Joe Barry Carroll scored 32 points and Purvis Short and Eric "Sleepy" Floyd each had 31 as Golden State ended a five-game losing streak by beating visiting Seattle.

Tom Chambers scored 36 points and Dale Ellis 33 for Seattle.

Trail Blazers 125, Nets 107

Kiki Vandeweghe scored 28 points and Clyde Drexler 20 as hot-shooting Portland downed New Jersey.

Orlando Woolridge scored 21 points for the Nets, who lost their fourth straight game and eighth in a row on the road.

## Canada and Ivory Coast take lead in Davis Cup

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** — Canada's Martin Wostenholme and Glenn Michibata scored singles victories Friday to take a 2-0 lead over Venezuela in first-round Davis Cup matches.

Wostenholme, ranked 189th by the Association of Tennis Professionals, beat Carlos Claverie 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; Michibata, competing in his fifth Davis Cup, defeated Venezuela's teen sensation Nicolas Pereira 8-6, 6-2, 6-4 in the American Zone match.

Wostenholme will take on Pereira in Sunday's singles, followed by the Michibata-Claverie match.

## Syria upsets E. Germany in Nehru soccer

**KOZHIKODE, India (AP)** — In another major upset, Syria defeated East Germany 2-1 after a freak goal by mid-fielder Gorge Khori Friday in the 6th Jawaharlal Nehru Gold Cup international soccer tournament.

At half-time, the two teams were tied 1-1.

On Thursday, Bulgaria upset last year's runnerup China 4-0 in League 'B' to enter the semi-finals.

Despite the win, Syria ended last in League 'A' collecting just two points, and was ousted from the tournament.

East Germany, with three points, will have to wait until the Nigeria-Soviet Union match to know if it will enter the semifinal round. The Soviets have three points and the Nigerians two.

The Syrians launched a series of offensive on the East German goal as soon as the contest started.

The tournament is named after India's first prime minister, grandfather of present Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

## U.S. takes lead in America's Cup final

**FREMANTLE, Australia (AP)** — Stars and Stripes grabbed the early lead and steadily widened it Saturday to win the first race in the America's Cup final series against Australia's Kookaburra III.

The U.S. entry thrived in light winds and on downward legs to defeat Kookaburra III by 1 minute, 41 seconds.

The start of the race was delayed about 20 minutes as officials anticipated a shift in wind direction. The decision was made 10 minutes before the 10-minute pre-start manoeuvres were to begin.

Officials apparently were waiting for the wind to shift to the southwest rather than have the

direction change soon after the start.

After the delay, in which the starting line was re-set to accommodate the wind as it began coming out of the southwest, the boats were even at the start, but Stars and Stripes was in control.

Skipper Dennis Conner's boat had forced Kookaburra III to tack away about 30 seconds before the start and quickly opened a lead. Stars and Stripes was on the left side and Kookaburra III on the far right as the starting gun went off in moderate winds.

At the end of the first 3.25-mile (5.2-kilometre) leg, Stars and Stripes had opened a 1-minute, 15-second lead as Conner took advantage of winds that shifted about 20 degrees toward the south.

The breeze also was dying, decreasing to about eight knots

midway through the leg. Stars and Stripes' domination in that light air indicated the boat's strength wasn't limited to heavy weather, an image Conner tried to project.

The boats stayed apart throughout the leg, with Stars and Stripes on the left and Kookaburra III on the right. His big lead allowed Conner to avoid a tacking duel against the more manoeuvrable Aussie boat.

During the delay, the Australian yacht put up a different mainsail as the wind picked up. At the gun signalling the beginning of the pre-start period, Stars and Stripes still was changing its headsail.

It was a rare cloudy day in what has been a consistently sunny summer. The lighter wind earlier in the day was unusual and seemed to favour the Australian yacht in the 24.1-mile (38.8-kilometre) race.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Romanian beats swimming record

**PARIS (R)** — Tamara Costache of Romania beat her own world short-course best time for the women's 50 metres freestyle at a swimming meeting Saturday. Costache, who set a mark of 25.08 seconds in Cannes on Jan. 18, clocked 25.01 in the 25-metre Bonlogne-Billancourt pool in a solo swim Saturday. The 16-year-old Romanian set a world long-course mark of 25.28 at the World Championships in Madrid last August.

### Bulgarian sets women's high jump mark

**GENOA, Italy (AP)** — Stefka Kostadinova of Bulgaria set a new women's indoor best Saturday in the high jump with a leap of 2.04 metres. She broke the previous mark of 2.03 metres, set by Tamara Bykova of the Soviet Union in Budapest in 1983. Kostadinova tried to break her own outdoor world record of 2.06 metres, but she missed at 2.09. The new mark was set at an international meet in this northern port city involving athletes from Italy, Spain and Bulgaria.

### Proposal made to dope-test jockeys

**LONDON (AP)** — British horseracing authorities are to consider a proposal to introduce dope tests for jockeys, according to press reports. "As far as we know, no jockeys are taking drugs," said Peter Twite, head of administration at the Jockey Club, governing body of the sport in this country. Twite said the Jockey Club would meet on Feb. 9 to consider a proposal allowing medical officers to carry out a drug test on a rider if there was any suspicion about his condition.

### Mecir advances to NSW Open final

**SYDNEY, Australia (AP)** — Top-seeded Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia cruised past Australian Wally Masur Saturday to advance to the final of the \$105,000 New South Wales Open tennis championships. The 22-year-old Czech, ranked 9th in the world, downed the sixth-seeded Masur 6-4, 6-2 with an impressive performance that belied his lack of experience on grass courts. Mecir will meet unseeded Australian Peter Doolan, ranked 180th in the world, in Sunday's final of the Nabisco Grand Prix event. Doolan, 25, battled for over two hours to defeat his left-handed compatriot Brad Drewett 6-7, 6-4, 6-4 in the other semi.

### British clubs to play 'down under'

**SYDNEY, Australia (AP)** — Leading British soccer clubs Manchester United, Nottingham Forest and Glasgow Celtic will compete in a four-team international tournament in Australia from May 25-June 4, the Australian Soccer Federation announced Saturday. The three clubs will compete against the Australian national team in the tournament, said Brian Emery, the federation's executive director. Emery also confirmed that the Australian team would compete in the President's Cup tournament in South Korea in June. Other entrants for the President's Cup are Chile, Kuwait, Nigeria, South Korea, North Korea, AC Milan of Italy, Sao Paulo of Brazil, an Eastern European nation and an English First Division club yet to be named.

### Wadkins leads Pebble Beach tourney

**PEBBLE BEACH, California (AP)** — Lanny Wadkins chipped in for a birdie on his final hole and took a one-shot lead over Payne Stewart Friday after two rounds of the \$600,000 Pebble Beach National Pro-Am Golf Tournament. Wadkins put a birdie-birdie finish on a 3-under-par 69 at tough Spyglass Hill and completed 36 holes in 137, seven under par. Under the format that calls for the pros to play one round at each of three Monterey Peninsula courses, he now faces the final two rounds at Pebble Beach. Wadkins won the 1977 Professional Golf Association Championship on that course. Japanese veteran Isao Aoki, Danny Edwards and former British Open champion Sandy Lyle of Scotland were at 139, two shots back. Aoki had a 70 and Lyle 71, both at Pebble Beach. Edwards shot 69 at Cypress Point.

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# Honda outpaces competitors

TOKYO (R) — A sharp jump in output helped Honda leap past Mazda and Mitsubishi to become Japan's third largest producer of vehicles last year, industry analysts said last week.

Toyota and Nissan, in that order, are still by far the biggest manufacturers, but neither company was able to match Honda's 10 per cent growth last year.

Honda produced 1.24 million units in 1986, far below Toyota's staggering 3.66 million and Nissan's 2.24 million, but above Mazda's 1.20 million and Mitsubishi's 1.18 million, according to the car industry's official data compiler, the Japan Automobile Industry Association (JAMA).

Output for all Japan's vehicle manufacturers totalled 12.26 million in 1986, down 0.1 per cent from the previous year, JAMA said.

The total amount continues to make Japan the largest producer of vehicles in the world. The United States is expected to have made slightly fewer than 12 million in 1986.

But with the exception of Honda the Japanese manufacturers had a relatively tough year trying to boost domestic output, analysts said.

The companies had to struggle against export quotas, the strong yen and oversupply of inventories at dealers, but Honda boosted its output as if there were no problems, one car analyst said.

Honda's output was bolstered by swift sales not only in Japan, but the United States and Europe.

# Toshiba to expand production

TOKYO (AP) — Toshiba Corp. will increase its overseas production in 1987 to expand its markets abroad and offset losses caused by the high value of the Japanese yen, Toshiba President Sugichiro Watari said last week.

Toshiba plans this year to begin production of radio cassette players in South Korea for export to the United States, and production of colour television sets in Singapore destined for the Middle East, according to Toshiba Executive Vice President Fumio Ohta.

The company also will expand its production of air conditioners and radio cassette players in Taiwan, Mr. Ohta said.

Offshore production will be emphasised in line with the giant electronic manufacturer's policy of easing trade friction and enhancing the international business environment, Mr. Watari said at an annual news conference.

"We will pursue our efforts to increase imports of high-technology products," Mr. Watari said. "We will also increase production overseas of manufactured goods for export to third countries or back to Japan."

Mr. Ohta said overseas production in fiscal 1986, which ends this March, will be worth approximately 200 billion yen (\$1.3 billion), of which some 12 per cent will be exported to Japan.

# YOUR DAILY Horoscope

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day of changing moods and activities for you. The early hours are fine for progressive ideas, but then some upsets occur that require a change of plans.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study your personal ambitions and how best to attain them. The evening is fine for enjoying yourself.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Contact a good friend who can help you gain your ambitions. Don't commit yourself in practical affairs.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get into activities that will gain you more prestige in public. Don't worry about the little matters now.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Early concentrate on elevated thoughts. Do nothing today that can injure your health.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be happy with the one you love even if amusements are not possible now. Enjoy inexpensive pleasures.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) An associate gives you good suggestions. Sidelstep a talk with your family, thus avoiding an argument.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) Study early how to make your environment more charming. Try to improve some special talent.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Plan some fun for later, but be careful you do not overspend or jeopardize other assets.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can be very happy at home. It's not wise to go after that long-term wish now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't worry about something you can do nothing about. Set up a better budget now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Handle some practical matter that needs attention. Do whatever you like the most for entertainment.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your judgment is not very good. Do nothing that may upset a higher-up. Put aside practical work.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have the ability to communicate with others around him, or her, and should have training in the right directions during the early years since there would be the tendency to make drastic changes in the lifestyle otherwise. Life can be very happy here.

# AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Jan. 24, '87 and ending Wednesday, Jan. 28, '87. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
<b>Banking and financial institutions</b>					
Industrial Development Bank	1100	2360	2.160	2.160	1.000
Petra Bank	1509	3176	2.100	2.110	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	3436	5773	1.640	1.690	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Housing Bank	1950	2964	1.620	1.520	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	2000	4000	2.050	2.000	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	16547	284594	17.400	17.100	5.000
Arab Bank	650	83976	130.000	130.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	3766	9263	2.450	2.450	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	26400	17802	0.670	0.680	1.000
Islamic Investment House	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	8466	7687	1.400	1.410	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	55458	13766	0.750	0.740	1.000
National Financial Investments	100	130	1.300	1.300	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	1750	1050	0.580	0.600	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	15355	14474	0.950	0.940	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
<b>Insurance and reinsurance</b>					
Jordan French Insurance	4620	13432	3.000	2.900	1.000
REPCO Life Insurance	354	290	0.820	0.820	1.000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Life and Accident Insurance	5450	4263	0.850	0.800	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	6590	6515	1.030	0.970	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arabian Seas Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	1023	921	0.990	0.900	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	100	127	1.200	1.270	1.000
Petra Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	33575	28077	0.710	0.830	1.000
Universal Insurance	4050	2494	0.600	0.680	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Al-Zafrah Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	3920	6486	1.450	1.650	1.000
<b>Services and industries</b>					
Danco for Flooring and Investment	54958	32834	0.590	0.590	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Agarco)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Management and Consultancy	200	50	0.450	0.500	1.000
General Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	15564	2543	0.670	0.660	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	9100	4248	0.970	0.960	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	9952	14489	1.460	1.460	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	10490	4301	0.410	0.410	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	105	263	4.500	2.500	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	41	183	4.500	4.500	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	5550	4786	0.880	0.870	1.000
Day Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Dairy	9548	11077	1.160	1.150	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	11996	24745	2.050	2.070	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	9100	6681	0.750	0.730	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	70	161	2.250	2.300	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Iota)	15867	22111	1.400	1.370	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	183	804	4.200	4.500	1.000
Aladdin Industries	36650	33324	0.890	0.920	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	144611	197405	1.340	1.380	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	13122	32518	4.000	4.200	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	1200	1142	0.960	0.950	1.000
Chemical Industries	4700	4767	1.000	1.020	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Day Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	768	1022	1.330	1.350	1.000
National Steel Industries	96150	175853	1.780	1.910	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	300	234	0.780	0.780	1.000
General Mining	360	620	1.750	1.700	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	2880	19586	6.790	6.780	5.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	6150	1318	0.210	0.220	1.000
National Industries	8750	5486	0.660	0.640	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	4500	3181	0.700	0.720	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	9040	10806	1.180	1.200	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	5000	2000	0.390	0.400	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Humei Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	175	109	0.600	0.640	1.000
Jordan Tanning	1998	3246	1.600	1.630	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	25	264	10.600	10.600	5.000
Jordan Brewery	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	54520	47432	0.860	0.880	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Industrial Investment Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	211709	306723	1.600	1.740	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	408323	339712	0.970	0.850	1.000
Grand total	1,353,824	1,849,598			

# U.S. treasury secretary visits Saudi Arabia today

## Talks may also cover political cooperation

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Treasury Secretary James Baker will head a U.S. delegation to Saudi Arabia Sunday for talks aimed at strengthening economic and political cooperation between the two nations.

Finance ministers from both countries hold talks annually but the latest round of discussions, from Feb. 3 to 5, became noteworthy after reports that Mr. Baker may afterwards fly to Europe for high-level meetings on the currency crisis.

Mr. Baker and Saudi Finance Minister Mohammad Abal Khalil will discuss the state of the U.S.-Saudi joint commission on economic cooperation which oversees some 23 bilateral projects.

These range from agriculture, health and customs planning to economic cooperation and assistance with scientific research and higher education.

The treasury secretary will also probably hear from the U.S. business community, which has become disillusioned by increasing payments delays on contracts with the Saudis, officials said.

But the officials acknowledge Mr. Baker's visit will also help to smooth ruffled Saudi feelings over several developments that have hurt the relationship recently.

Mr. Baker's visit is the first by a top U.S. official since Vice President George Bush went there last April. With close ties to President Reagan and a considerable international reputation, Mr. Baker is an equally high-level emissary.

Saudi Arabia is reported to be upset over the Iranian arms scandal, America's staunch free market approach to the oil market, and congressional opposition to arms sales by Washington to Riyadh.

In what many diplomats interpreted as a signal of Saudi displeasure with Washington, the royal family recently sent newly-appointed Oil Minister Hashim Nazer to Moscow for talks on Soviet cooperation with OPEC oil production cutbacks.

"You can say it's punishing the U.S. but I wouldn't make too much of it," said a U.S. official who noted that Saudi visits to Moscow are few and far between. Saudi Arabia is staunchly anti-communist and traditionally deeply suspicious of Soviet intentions.

Officials said Mr. Baker expects to discuss the oil situation with Sheikh Nazer. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has gradually cut back production to force world oil prices higher.

In addition to talks with Sheikh Nazer, Mr. Baker will discuss bilateral issues chiefly with Finance Minister Abal Khalil.

The two men are also likely to consult on international economic issues of mutual interest.

Saudi Arabia is a strong supporter of Mr. Baker's plan to shore up the global debt situation

and both men are likely to discuss the grave situation of Sudan, which owes foreign creditors over \$6 billion.

Sheikh Abal Khalil will probably ask Mr. Baker for a review of the international monetary situation. Recent instability on foreign exchange markets, where the dollar sank to record lows against the mark and the yen, could trigger a meeting of the Group of Five leading industrial democracies.

Even though no meeting of the five — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain and France — has been called yet, there are expectations that Mr. Baker will attend talks with finance ministers and central banks of the other four countries on his return home.

Saudi Arabia is a heavy investor in U.S. treasury bills and may express concern over the weaker dollar. But the days when the kingdom's financial influence was of great significance to Washington have gone with the days of very high oil prices.

**Baker denies U.S. wants further dollar decline**

Mr. Baker denied before a congressional panel Friday that the U.S. government has been trying to push down the value of the dollar.

Mr. Baker dismissed news reports quoting unidentified officials of President Reagan's administration as saying the dollar needed to fall further in order to pressure Japan and West Germany to do more to help alleviate U.S. trade problems.

"Contrary to published reports, the United States is not and has not been for a period of a year talking down the dollar," he said in comments before the Joint Economic Committee of Congress.

A report that the U.S. trade deficit declined substantially in December helped to push the value of the dollar higher in trading Friday.

Currency markets have been watching carefully for signs that the Group of Five would meet, believing that it could result in coordinated action among the countries to stabilise the value of the U.S. currency.

A meeting between the five countries in September 1985 resulted in an accord to push the dollar lower as a way to help ease the huge U.S. trade imbalance. A weaker dollar theoretically should make imports more expensive while making American products more competitive on overseas markets.

In the 16 months since the meeting took place, the value of the dollar has declined substan-

tially, especially against the German mark and Japanese yen, but the U.S. trade deficit has continued to worsen. It hit a record \$169.8 billion for 1986, although the year ended with a December monthly imbalance in 21 months.

Mr. Baker said the decline in the value of the dollar since September 1985 should have a beneficial effect on America's trade deficit but cautioned that "there is a substantial lag time between exchange rate changes and movement in the trade figures."

He conceded that the Reagan administration's strategy of seeking a lower-valued dollar also risks of reigniting inflation and driving up U.S. interest rates.

One reason the decline so far has not produced either of those results was the corresponding fall of world oil prices, he said.

Mr. Baker said there had been recent periods of instability in the currency markets because of the sharp decline in the value of the dollar. During such periods of instability, countries often intervene to buy large amounts of the falling currency to prevent it from declining further.

Mr. Baker refused to comment on published reports that the United States had joined with Japan in buying U.S. dollars.

"I cannot comment on intervention. We never do and we shouldn't. That would be a bad policy for the treasury to comment on when it might or might not intervene or on whether it has or hasn't intervened," Mr. Baker said.

However, opposition Democratic Senator Paul Sarbanes, chairman of the committee, said he did not see how the administration could conduct effective economic policy in such an atmosphere of secrecy.

Mr. Sarbanes said the situation had taken on aspects of a mystery novel. He noted one published report that Assistant Treasury Secretary David Mulford had slipped out of Washington on Wednesday for an undisclosed European location, possibly to plan for a Baker meeting with other finance ministers on Feb. 7.

"I don't see how you can make effective policy in an atmosphere that is rife with such rumours, and I think you should address it," Mr. Sarbanes said.

Mr. Baker deflected the question, joking that he was glad that "someone is keeping up with the assistant secretary for international affairs."

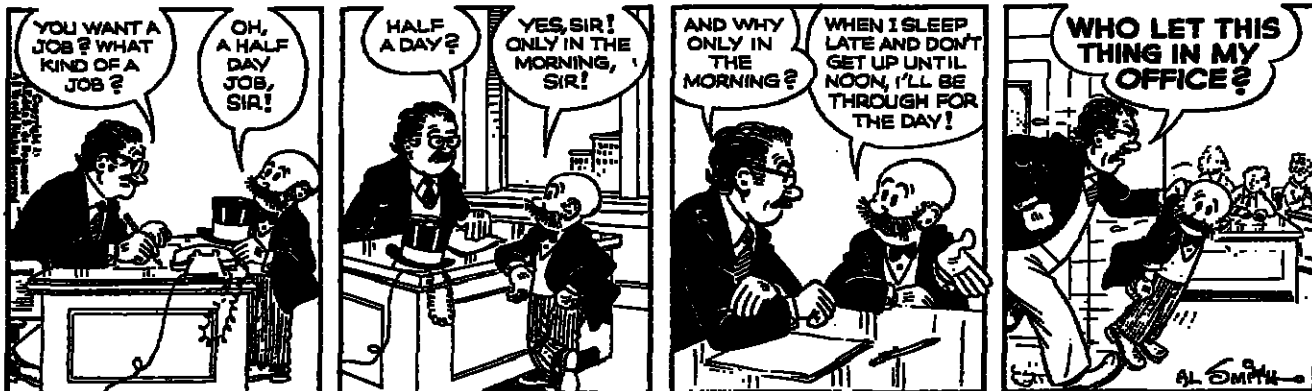
Mr. Baker said there was no date for the next meeting between finance leaders of the major industrial countries, but: "It is clear that there is some consideration being given to the possibility of a meeting."

In New York, a spokesman for big American companies such as General Electric Co. (G.E.) and Ford Motor Co. agreed that the dollar's fall has had little effect on the huge U.S. trade deficit.

# Peanuts



# Mutt 'n' Jeff

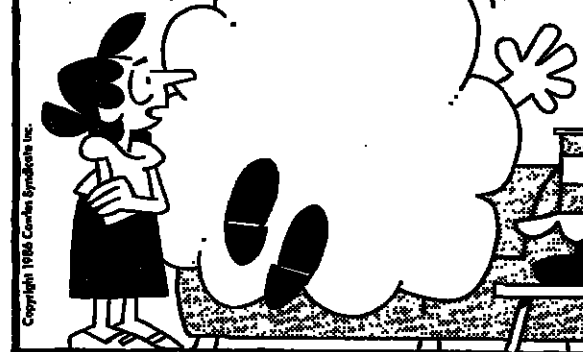


# Andy Capp



# THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Your nervous habit of tapping your foot was driving me crazy — so I installed air bags in your shoes!"

# JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LOTXX

ALLIV

WEGNIT

HALTEL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BRIAR KNAVE ACCESS TROUGH

Answer: What it was for the Peeping Tom when he was caught looking through an open window—CURTAINS

# THE Daily Crossword

by James E. Hinish, Jr.



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Gridiron Starr  
2. Window part  
3. Stalling vessel  
4. Nanking nemy  
5. Young pigeon  
6. Scotch solo  
7. Memo  
8. Inlet port  
9. Lessee's payment  
10. Formula of belief  
11. Observation  
12. Square pillar  
13. One of the Harbides  
14. Fortified  
15. Contraption  
16. Oyst pad  
17. Excitation  
18. Old Fr. coin  
19. Tail or mod ending  
20. Hostess host  
21. Wheel holder  
22. Rapaciousness of old  
23. Palliative  
24. Henna or indigo  
25. Tropical birds  
26. Omelet of night  
27. Rabbit  
28. Sucker  
29. Hamlet  
30. TV's Bat  
31. Masterson  
32. Social  
33. Slight breeze  
34. Bull. prof.  
35. Sniffer's content  
36. Un



